

Youth messenger

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the Adventures of Daniel

PART 4

BY TOBIAS L. STOCKLER

Humans have both good and bad habits, whether we like it or not, whether we know it or not. That means me. That means you. What is the difference between a nice guy and a bad guy? It depends. You can't lump all "bad" people together any more than you can lump all "nice" people together. Well, suppose we mean Christian by nice, and non-Christian (idolaters, pagans, heathens, atheists, agnostics, I-don't-knows, and whatever else—it is a big group, and not all of them think the same) by bad, what is the difference then? It still depends. David and Moses both believed in Christ. They were both manslayers, too. Some non-Christians have behaved much more civilly. What is the difference, then?

What do we mean by this? Let's start with bad. By bad I mean every act that is truly harmful. Hatred of people is harmful—physiologically to ourselves, and psychologically at least—to others. By nice, I mean doing anything that is truly beneficial.

Every one of us is born acting both nice and bad, unintentionally. We all begin life benefiting and harming ourselves and others. Where we go from there is up to us. We choose to become either intentionally nice or mean. That is the difference between true Christians and some non-Christians. The first are becoming intentionally beneficial—always, in any circumstances. The second are becoming intentionally malicious in their actual motives. The rest simply haven't completely made

up their mind between the two yet. All persons will make up their mind eventually. In theological terms we call it the close of probation.

WHAT ABOUT THE GREATEST KING OF ANCIENT BABYLON?

Nebuchadnezzar was a run-of-the-mill human. Yes, he was rich and powerful. But under the surface he had to fight with the same pride and egotism you and I struggle with (although, I admit, he had more to be egotistical about!). And he had the same sense of right that lies somewhere in our grey matter. In fact, he had a keen sense of liberty and justice. Thus, history records him as a wise and kind but firm ruler. God used him to set many injustices aright, some because of his sense of justice, and some because of his ambition.

Nebuchadnezzar subdued Tyre after a long and famous struggle. Egypt had been a little easier project a few years before (just before he succeeded his father, Nabopolassar, to the throne). "As he added nation after nation to the Babylonian realm, he added more and more to his fame as the greatest ruler of the age.

"It is not surprising that the successful monarch, so ambitious and so proud-spirited, should be tempted to turn aside from the path of humility, which alone leads to true greatness. In the intervals between his wars of conquest he gave much thought to the strengthening and beautifying of

God tried to turn this proud heart into an intentionally good one, just as he always tries to draw every heart to the better side of life.

his capital, until at length the city of Babylon became the chief glory of his kingdom, 'the golden city,' 'the praise of the whole earth.' His passion as a builder, and his signal success in making Babylon one of the wonders of the world, ministered to his pride, until he was in grave danger of spoiling his record as a wise ruler whom God would continue to use as an instrument for the carrying out of the divine purpose."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 515.

Twice God appealed to the better side of Nebuchadnezzar's heart. The first time, He prevented anyone but Himself through Daniel to answer the king's queries about the future of his kingdom. And the second time, when Nebuchadnezzar rebelled against the idea of God superseding him as monarch of the civilized world, He turned his rebellion into wasted time and material. All the officials of his kingdom marveled at and listened to three of his

subjects, completely ignoring Nebuchadnezzar's great national symbol and idol towering over their heads.

But Nebuchadnezzar was all too human. At first he was impressed with God. Later, when the newness wore off, he returned to his old ways with even more zeal than before. So the third time God tried to turn this proud heart into an intentionally good one, just as he always tries to draw every heart to the better side of life.

THE DREAM

That night Nebuchadnezzar dreams. He sees a very large tree. The tree is visible from far away. It towers above everything else, demanding your attention. (Having stood at the base of the world largest living thing—a tree named General Sherman—I think God knows well what kind of symbol to use for something

big and important.) This tree is as healthy as it is large. And it is filled with fruit. I suppose the squirrels love to play chase among its branches. Sparrows fly from its branches to hop around and peck at the ground with endless patience, and then return to the safety of its branches. Swallows dart here and there above it, catching insects so invisible to us down below. Rabbits bite, blade by blade, the green grass that surrounds that mighty trunk. A little bit farther, a few cows chew their cud in the cool shade. Deer feed on the lowest leaves, at dusk, and wolves howl at any moonbeams that perseveringly break through the shadows of its branches. This tree is the “mall” of this natural world.

Then comes the Divine command to cut the tree down but to leave the roots. We might liken it to closing down



a shopping mall. Its doors and windows are boarded up. But rather than tear the building down, we turn it into a barn. Then came the words that should have explained the dream to Nebuchadnezzar: “Let his heart be changed from man’s, and let a beast’s heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men” (Daniel 4:16, 17).

When the “wise,” the scholars, and the university men couldn’t explain the dream, Nebuchadnezzar knew just where to turn—to Daniel. Daniel immediately understood the dream. Would you have understood it so quickly and accurately? And in spite of the risk, Daniel accurately interpreted this dream, appealing to the king to improve his choices before it was too late. At first Nebuchadnezzar did. But over the next year he lost this impression from the Holy Spirit also. And as he did, he became oppressive to his subjects. One year later, the “tree” was cut



down. Nebuchadnezzar lost his intelligence. Instead of being likened to a tree, he became like one of the cows sitting in the shade of the tree. Seven years he was an “animal.” You can imagine what you would think if this happened to the president or prime minister of your country!

THE MERCIFUL OUTCOME

When Nebuchadnezzar’s years of grazing were over, his intelligence returned. Would you have trusted him then? Babylon did. And what was the king’s reaction to this humiliation? Nebuchadnezzar praises God. Humiliation and disgrace can be devastating, but instead of complaining, Nebuchadnezzar actually thought the best response was simply to thank God.

“At the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: and all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase” (verses 34–37).

Have you thanked God for allowing you to be humbled recently? Nebuchadnezzar and I will, by the grace of God, be thanking God together in a few more years. Thanking God that He made Himself of no reputation for us, to save those of us who through humiliating experiences found Him. I would rather be side by side with Nebuchadnezzar and talk with him any day than allow myself to wallow in despair

because God has had to chop down my ego a notch or two at times. Why not just submit to His pruning instead?

What about you? God has tried to turn you from a house of good and bad divided against yourself into a temple of marble and gold, that He may be close friends with you. I know, because that is His “lifework” right now. And someday you will discover Him, if you haven’t already. It may be sometime when you make a great fool of yourself, or it may not be. I don’t know. But I do know this: I pray that when Nebuchadnezzar and I gather around in the Universe’s capital to give our thanks, face to face, to that great Lover and Saviour of fools, you will be there to join us in the most joyous celebration this entire Universe has ever experienced. And I pray that you learn to thank God here, soon, for only the thankful have the benefit of eternity. 🌱

“STICK-TO-IT-IVENESS”

BY W. E. PERRIN

An observing person has said of businesspeople that 50% fail, about 47% make a living, and 3% make a success of life. There are various reasons for this. People often embark in a business for which they have neither practical training nor natural ability; they display an indifference to proper business methods that is unworthy of success; they have no ambition to push, and manifest no degree of “stick-to-it-iveness” whatsoever.

The latter evil is one that seriously affects a large portion of humanity. Indeed, discontentment, which immediately precedes it, is well-nigh universal. It afflicts all alike, old and young, male and female. People get into a business or a position in life, and if the returns are not what were expected, they become dissatisfied and discontent, and are ready to give up—they fail to stick to it.

There is just one remedy for this fault. All should examine themselves, study their dispositions and natural abilities, and learn what position in life they are qualified to fill, and then enter that position, and work. Be satisfied with nothing short of perfection in the line you take up; stick to it, and success will come. 🌀



A young man with dark, wavy hair and a light beard is standing in a grand, classical hall. He is wearing a black tuxedo jacket over a white shirt and a dark red bow tie. He is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. The hall is filled with tall, white marble columns that recede into the distance, creating a strong sense of perspective. The floor is made of large, light-colored stone tiles. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the man and the architectural details.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG, PROSPEROUS, & DYNAMIC?

EXCERPTS FROM THE WRITINGS OF E. G. WHITE

"There came one running, and kneeled to [Jesus], and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions" (Mark 10:17–22). . . .

Christ was drawn to the young ruler by the purity of his life. He accepted his words; for He knew him to be sincere in his assertion, "All these things have I observed from my youth." . . .

Christ read the ruler's heart. He traced from cause to effect, and He knew that the ruler's position and great possessions would have a demoralizing effect upon his whole nature and would develop a character that would lead him to worship himself and his riches; that his desire to lay up treasure in heaven would grow less and less; and that he would enter into engagements that would be a snare to him.

Christ gave this young man a test. He allowed him all freedom in his choice. He presented the weak spot in his character. He was not to be forced to decide one way or the other. He was left free to choose heavenly treasure or worldly greatness. The heavenly treasure was assured him if he would follow Christ, yielding up everything to him. This was the only safe way for him to choose. There need have been no delay; the yielding could have been done at once. **But if he accepted and believed in Christ, self must yield; his will must be given into Christ's control. . . .**

Verily, Christ's words to the young ruler were the invitation, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (Joshua 24:15). The choice was left with him. Jesus loved him and was yearning for his

conversion. He had shown him the plague-spot in his character; and with what yearning he watched the issue as the young man weighed the question! If he decided to follow Christ, he must obey His words in everything. He must turn from his ambitious projects. With what earnest, anxious longing, with what soul-hunger, did Christ look at the young man, hoping that he would yield to the invitation of the Spirit of God! . . .

[The ruler's] exalted position and his possessions were exerting a subtle influence for wrong upon his character. If cherished, they would supplant God in his affections. To keep back little or much from God was to keep back that which would weaken his moral strength and efficiency; for if the things of this earth are cherished, however uncertain and unworthy they may be, they will become all-absorbing. . . . Heaven's treasure could be obtained only by exchanging the earthly and temporal for the eternal.—*The Youth's Instructor*, May 20, 1897. [Emphasis added.]

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ME?

The experience of the young ruler who valued his riches above the heavenly treasure is presented to us as an object lesson. It contains a lesson for us all. The young man turned from Christ, saying, inwardly, "I will not have this man as my leader." Christ was not as much

What a price Christ
paid to make it possible
for this young man to
obtain salvation!

to him as his possessions or his name among men. He rejected the offer of eternal life and went away, refusing to follow Jesus; and ever afterward, the world was to receive his worship.

Thousands are passing through this experience, weighing Christ against the world, and many choose the world. Every invitation refused makes the heart harder. Seeds of resistance are sown that will bring a harvest of resistance.

But what a price Christ paid to make it possible for this young man to obtain salvation! He stepped down from the throne of honor, laid off His royal robe and His royal crown, gave back into His Father's hand the scepter, and veiling divinity with humanity, humbled Himself, and came to a world all seared and marred with the curse. . . .

Think of the elevation, the glory, the majesty that Christ, the only begotten Son of God, possessed! Yet He condescended to leave all this. In behalf of man He descended, step by step in the path of humiliation. He knew, as no human being can know,

the elevation from which He descended to become a man among men. . . .

God has given us the rule of conduct which every servant of Jesus Christ must follow. It is obedience to His law, not merely a legal obedience, but an obedience which enters into the entire life and is exemplified in the character. God has set His own standard of character for all who would become subjects of His kingdom. Those who can and will say, "Lord, all I have, and all I am, is Thine," will be given grace and fortitude to come out from the world and be separate. . . .

The world's policy is to acquire money and advantages in any way that they can be obtained. An accumulation of this world's treasure is the ambition of worldlings. But the object of the followers of our Lord Jesus Christ is to become Christlike by self-denial and self-sacrifice. . . .

We may never have opportunity to do great things, we may never be required to make sublime sacrifices; but the greatest victory we can gain is to follow Jesus. . . .

If we would follow Him over the rugged path of self-denial, we must commence with the earliest years of our life to deny self, and this denial must be carried into the everyday occurrences and actions of life. . . .

Self-surrender is the substance of the teachings of Christ. Often is it presented and enjoined in language that seems authoritative,

because there is no other way to save man than to cut away those things which, if entertained, will demoralize the whole being.—Ibid., May 27, 1897. [Emphasis added.]

The ruler . . . possessed qualifications which, if he had been united with Christ, would have enabled him to become a divine force among men. Christ, seeing his character, loved him. **If he had made his choice for Christ then, how different would have been his future!**—Ibid., May 20, 1897. [Emphasis added.]

Christ would have accepted this talented and noble ruler, if he had yielded to His requirements, as readily as He accepted the poor fishermen whom He bade to follow Him. The young man's ability to acquire property was not against him, provided he loved his neighbor as himself, and had not wronged another in acquiring his riches. That very ability, had it been employed in the service of God in seeking to save souls from ruin, would have been acceptable to the divine Master, and he might have made a diligent and successful worker for Christ. But he refused the exalted privilege of cooperating with Christ in the salvation of souls; he turned away from the glorious treasure promised him in the kingdom of God, and clung to the fleeting treasures of earth.


We fear this is the case with many who profess to keep the commandments of God. . . .
The young man had wealth,

education, position, and influence, and was therefore qualified to work intelligently and successfully for the Master. But his love of the world prevented him from accepting the invitation of Christ.—*The Review and Herald*, March 21, 1878 [Emphasis added.].

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND . . .

The humble fishermen obeyed the call of Jesus and forsook all to follow Him. It may appear to some that it required little self-denial for them to do this, as their business was neither elevated nor lucrative; but it should be remembered that these men owned boats and nets, and obtained a good livelihood by their occupation. Also their life upon the water had its attractions, and **it was a great sacrifice for them to leave the employment in which they had thus far spent their lives.**

The young ruler represents a large class who would be excellent Christians if there was no cross for them to lift, no humiliating burden for them to bear, no earthly advantages to resign, no sacrifice of property or feelings to make. Christ has entrusted to them capital of talents and means, and He expects corresponding returns. **That which we possess is not our own but is to be employed in serving Him from whom we have received all we have.** —Ibid. [Emphasis added.]

“[The fishermen] forsook all, and followed [Jesus]” (Luke 5:11). 

A large, dark wooden sailing ship with three masts and white sails is shown from a low angle, sailing on a calm sea. The sky is filled with dramatic, orange and yellow clouds from a setting or rising sun. The ship's hull is dark brown, and its masts are made of light-colored wood. The sails are partially unfurled. The overall mood is serene yet slightly somber, fitting the theme of derelicts.

Derelicts

A ship abandoned by its captain and crew is commonly known as a derelict. Vessels such as this are left to float as wind and tide may carry them. These derelicts form a serious menace to navigation, since their position cannot be located and put down on a chart, like a rock. They are constantly moving, almost entirely submerged in the water, and should a ship strike one while going at full speed, it would be in imminent danger of sinking. Probably some of the ships which have never been heard from since they sailed, have met their end in that way. Governments keep vessels

looking out for these derelicts; and when found they are often blown to pieces with dynamite.


Some of these derelicts keep afloat a long time. In the spring of 1891 a schooner, the "William T. Sargent," was abandoned at sea, her crew being rescued by another vessel. She was loaded with lumber, which doubtless increased her floating capacity. For six long years she battled with the Atlantic, and finally came to her rest, being cast, shattered, and covered with barnacles, upon one of the Bahama islands.

In the career of maritime derelicts, is there not something very suggestive of human life? Every person may be compared to a ship starting out for a voyage. We are launched upon the ocean of life, and if we make a successful voyage, we shall reach the port of our Father's city. The shoals and rocks may be dangerous as we near the port; but we know that we have a Helper, and can say, with the poet:

"For though beyond the bourne of time and place,
The floods may bear me far,
I hope to meet my Pilot face to face,
When I have crossed the bar."

But O, how many derelict lives there are! They have no definite object before them; they are looking for no port; they have lost chart and compass; they have no power to propel, no sails to catch a favorable breeze, no rudder to guide. Aimless derelicts, of no use to themselves and a positive danger to others, they wait for the last storm that shall bring them to an end. Do you not know such persons? If you do, help them if you can. A ruined ship is a loss, but how small a loss compared with a ruined and lost human soul!

It takes very little to start one in the way of a human derelict. A little carelessness about duty today; a little disregard of parents; a little disposition to have one's own way and to do as one pleases; a little determination to cast off the restraints of home, and to have a "good time" generally; and a hopeful life becomes a floating derelict, of no use to itself and a danger to others.

Young friends, be content with nothing less than a definite purpose in life. Let that purpose be a high degree of usefulness here, and an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 

—Author unknown.

How will I *ever* get a white robe?

*A compilation from the Bible
and the Spirit of Prophecy
with comments by
BARBARA MONTROSE*

Have you ever felt that you'll NEVER be good enough to enter Heaven? Most of us have felt that way at some time.

Did you know that a tremendous change can be made in your life—yes, yours? It's the change from being a typical, sinful person (and according to Romans 3:23, that includes everyone) into a child of God (John 1:11-13). One illustration the Bible uses to show this idea is that of a change of clothing.

If you've been working or playing hard for hours in the hot sun and you get super sweaty, at some point you'll probably want to come inside to change your clothes. After all, you don't want to go around feeling sticky and dirty. Most likely you will really want a nice, refreshing shower with soap and water, if

it's available. But even if there would be absolutely no water for washing up, before putting on clean clothes, for sure you would take off the dirty ones first. You would not just throw the clean on top of the dirty! You would want to change your clothes by switching or exchanging the dirty for the clean. Better yet, though, you really would want a bath to be clean from the inside out.

The prophet Zechariah was shown a vision of how the Lord forgives our sins and cleanses us. Israel's high priest at that time, Joshua, was only human, so he had sins just like the rest of us:

"Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him



he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment” (Zechariah 3:3, 4).

This spiritual change of clothing is necessary in order to enter the kingdom of Heaven. When Jesus was on earth, the disciples got a glimpse of this raiment (Matthew 17:2; 28:3; Mark 9:3), and our need of it is shown in the message to Laodicea (Revelation 3:18) as well as in a parable in Matthew 22:11-14. You probably remember that story—the king (symbolic of the Majesty of heaven) threw out the man who dared to come to the wedding without the special garment provided (symbolizing the righteousness of Christ). We also know that our only hope in the final Judgment is to be clothed with His righteousness, because mere human righteousness is simply not good enough, period.

HOW DO OUR SPIRITUAL GARMENTS GET DIRTY—AND HOW DO I KNOW WHEN I NEED THIS CHANGE OF GARMENTS?

“God has given in His word a mirror into which the sinner may look and discover the defects

of his moral character. **That mirror is the royal law of God, the ten commandments.** We are to compare our character with the law of God, and if that law condemns us, **if we are breaking any of its requirements, then our garments are defiled by sin;** and all the efforts we may make in our own strength will not efface one stain, one spot of sin. We must go to Jesus, humble the heart before Him, and confessing our sins, forsake them. We must cease to transgress the law of God, but exercise repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, August 18, 1886. [Emphasis added.]

What causes our spiritual garments to get dirty? We see here it’s the breaking of the Ten Commandments. But are we supposed to do something about this or can we just sit back, relax, and let it be done for us? We read above that our efforts—even our most vigorous scrubbing—can’t clean the stain. But there is nonetheless something we are supposed to do about it. There’s a whole list in the inspired passage cited above:

1. **Go to Jesus.**
2. **Humble our heart before Him.**
3. **Confess our sins.**
4. **Forsake our sins.**
5. **Stop breaking God's law.**
6. **Exercise** (and that can sometimes take exertion) **repentance toward God.**
7. **Exercise faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Does this sound like salvation by works? No. Our works cannot save us, but neither can we be saved by doing nothing in this process. Let's see the balance, as the passage continues:

"Jesus is the only one who can remove these defiled garments of sin, and clothe us in the robe of Christ's righteousness.

"But *there is something for you to do*, in seeking the Lord with an earnest purpose of heart and forsaking your sins; for Jesus will not save you if you continue to transgress the law. *You must, through faith in Christ, overcome sin.* Through the strength Jesus gives you, *you must day by day be engaged in washing the garments of your character* and making them white in the blood of the Lamb. How thankful we should be to God that **we do not**

have to make these efforts in our own finite strength! Jesus brings us divine help to aid our human efforts."—Ibid. [Emphasis added.]

Here it shows that, yes, we definitely need to overcome sin. All by ourselves? No, Jesus is there to help us with His strength. But we just read, "you must day by day be engaged in washing the garments of your character and making them white in the blood of the Lamb." Those who do this are victorious, as John the Revelator was shown in a vision of Heaven:

"One of the elders answered, saying unto me [John], What are these which are arrayed **in white robes?** and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have **washed their robes**, and made them

white in the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:13, 14).

Their robes were not washed for them—**they** washed them. But they could never have accomplished this if it weren’t for the blood of the Lamb. The spiritual application shows the miracle of the red blood of Christ making the robe white. How? Because this is isn’t just about something becoming white in color. The garment is actually a robe of light:

“By the wedding garment in the parable is represented **the pure, spotless character which Christ’s true followers will possess.** . . .

“The white robe of innocence was worn by our first parents when they were placed by God in holy Eden. They lived in perfect conformity to the will of God. **All** the strength of their affections was given to their heavenly Father. A beautiful soft light, the light of God, enshrouded the holy pair. This **robe of light** was a symbol of their **spiritual garments of heavenly innocence.**”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 310, 311. [Emphasis added.]

MEANWHILE . . .

“God has a law, and men must keep it. **If they disregard these rules, they will not have that perfection of character that will give them an entrance into the mansions above.** . . .

“The only hope of any man lies **through Jesus Christ who brought the robe** of His righteousness to

“These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:13, 14).

put upon the sinner who would lay off his filthy garments. . . . All who enter will have on the robe of Christ’s righteousness and the name of God will be seen in their foreheads. **This name** is the symbol which the apostle saw in vision, and **signifies the yielding of the mind to intelligent and loyal obedience to all of God’s commandments.** There will be no covering up of sins and faults to hide the deformity of character; no robes will be half washed; but all will be pure and spotless.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, August 18, 1886. [Emphasis added.]

We see here the key: **“The yielding of the mind to intelligent and loyal obedience to all of God’s commandments.”** If we don’t continually yield to God’s ways as revealed in His law, we’ll never overcome our wrong ways—and we won’t be in His kingdom!

But the Lord promises, **“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and**



I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels” (Revelation 3:5).

A FINAL APPEAL

The same passage concludes:

“Now in these hours of probation **I hope that our youth will receive the truth in the heart, that they may be sanctified through it. . . .**

“More zeal, greater devotion, and more steady, earnest faith is needed. You must do much watching and praying, as well as searching of the Scriptures if you learn the precious lessons of faith.”
—Ibid. [Emphasis added.]

So here is something else for us to do: Be zealous, be devoted, have steady (full-time, not part-time) faith, watch, pray, and search


the Scriptures. Doing all this won’t save us; only Jesus can save us. But how can He say He knows us if we rarely bother to learn much about Him or listen to and obey Him? We need to be actively preparing—notice those who receive this garment:

“The marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath **made herself ready**. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness **of saints**” (Revelation 19:7, 8).

“Let the youth and the little children be taught to choose for themselves that royal robe woven in heaven’s loom—the ‘fine linen, clean and white’ (Revelation 19:8), which all the holy ones of earth will wear. This robe, Christ’s own spotless character, is freely offered to every human being. But all who receive it will receive and wear it here.

“Let the children be taught that as they open their minds to pure, loving thoughts and do loving and helpful deeds, they are **clothing themselves with His beautiful garment of character**. This apparel will make them beautiful and beloved here, and will hereafter be their title of admission to the palace of the King. His promise is:

“ ‘They shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy’ (Revelation 3:4).”—*Education*, p.

249. [Emphasis added.] May the Lord strengthen us for the final victory through His power! Amen. 



That one thing, humanly speaking, which causes one individual to tower above another in life's pursuits, is perseverance. Steadfastness, resolution, pluck, bravery, boldness, patience, are among the ingredients of the trait. Its ambition is not satisfied with present attainments but reaches up to higher ground. There are no circumstances of birth or talent that can take the place of an invincible determination to succeed. No obstacle can stand before a strong-willed,

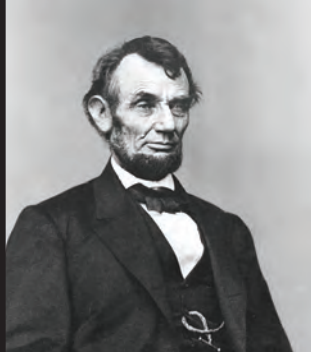
indefatigable, persevering energy. This rising in the world from inward, instead of outward, pressure, wins the admiration of the world, and is often times the means of inciting in others a spirit of emulation which prompts them to go and do likewise. Chinese folklore is said to relate that a student, becoming discouraged with the difficulties which he encountered in his studies, threw away his books and abandoned his studies; but sometime afterward, seeing a woman rubbing a crowbar on a stone, he inquired



PATRICK HENRY



HENRY CLAY



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

as to the reason, and was told that she wanted a needle, and thought she would rub down the crowbar till it was small enough. Her example of perseverance provoked him to try again, with the result that he became one of the ripest scholars of the empire.

All the worlds' greatest scholars, authors, philosophers, and philanthropists have reached the top only by persevering through trials and discouragements of various kinds. Patrick Henry, Clay, Webster, Lincoln, and Grant were sons of poor parents; but unwavering decision made them famous. The resolution of the great Carthaginian general, Hannibal, as displayed in his passage across the Alps and the Rhone, in his invasion of Italy, and during the long-continued war when his country failed to rally to his support, is worthy of admiration. The tenacity of the English army, who for hours endured the deadly fire of the French, while waiting for the arrival of Blücher, unhesitatingly obeying the command to fill up the ranks thinned by grape shot, won Waterloo. Wolfe, the hero of Quebec, was from youth a sufferer

with disease. His attacks on the entrenchments of Montcalm had been disastrous. His troops were dispirited. Fatigue, anxiety, and a violent fever had emaciated him. Gloomily he wrote home to England, "I am so far recovered as to do business, but my constitution is ruined." Yet he did not despair. Five days afterward the Heights of Abraham had been scaled, Montcalm defeated, and the hitherto impregnable fortress surrendered. Disraeli, the son of a despised race, without aristocratic connections, coughed and hissed down in his first appearance in Parliament, persevered, and made himself a power in England, and a peer of his former scorers. Lord Chatham, when told on a certain occasion that a certain thing could not be done, replied, "I trample upon impossibilities." To acquire a knowledge of language he used to translate Demosthenes into English, and he read Bailey's dictionary through critically. Lord Nelson persevered against physical inferiority, and became the hero of the Nile and of Trafalgar. . . . Horace Greeley began at the bottom of the ladder;



GEORG FRIEDRICH HANDEL



CHRISTIAN GOTTLLOB HEYNE




JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

but by perseverance he rose to be editor-in-chief of one of the most influential papers in America.

But there is no excellence without great labor. Perseverance means hard, continuous work. Incessant practice is necessary in order to be a skilled pianist. Handel, the great composer, had a harpsichord, every key of which, by continuous use, was hollowed like the bowl of a spoon. Gibbon was at work the year around at six in the morning, and revised some of his manuscript nine times. Ainsworth toiled for years compiling a dictionary of the Latin language. When it was nearly completed, his wife committed it to the flames. With persevering energy he began to rewrite it, and finally accomplished the work. Audubon toiled for years in securing accurate representations of American birds, all of which were destroyed in one night by two rats. With commendable perseverance he took up his gun, pencil, and notebook, and went again into the woods, and in three years filled his portfolio again. When Carlyle had finished his first volume of the French Revolution, he lent it to a

friend, whose servant by mistake threw it into the fire. Carlyle set to work, and, in a comparatively short time, reproduced it in its present form. Matthew Hale, when studying law, put in sixteen hours each day; and Heyne, the German classicist, shelled peas for dinner with one hand while he annotated Tibullus with the other.

Mr. Mathews, to whom we are indebted for some of the above facts, truly says that "there never was a time in the history of the world when success in any profession demanded harder or more increased labor than now." We must hammer out a place for ourselves by sturdy blows. The world is a throng; the only place that is not crowded is at the top of the ladder. We must climb up.

If perseverance is so necessary in worldly matters, how much more is it necessary in the Christian race. Said Paul, "This one thing I do" (Philippians 3:13). We must perseveringly strive for the crown of immortality that lies at the end of the race. It is worth the effort; for it will never fade. It will be given to none but the overcomers. 

MISSIONARY WORK — IN — ROMANIA

PART 2 OF 4
BY GABRIEL SERBAN

A young missionary agreed to share with our readers his journal of experiences. This is the 2nd in a series of 4 journal entries. Enjoy!

While canvassing in Moldova, Romania, my friend Adrian and I had wonderful experiences when we saw how God opened the heart of the listeners. We were happy every time when everything was nice, and when we came home without books.

But Satan was at work, too, trying to discourage us at every step.

Normally we would leave the car at the entrance of the village, and then walk. When we had finished with the books we had, we took the car and then entered farther into the village, taking with us as many books as would fit in our bags.

BRINGING THE BIBLE

One time we started doing our work, and we started to share the seeds of the gospel, two by two, as Jesus said. Sometimes we separated for a few minutes. My friend remained to talk with a person and I went to the other house and I started to talk with the person from there. I spoke about 30 minutes with a certain lady and she told me her life story. She told me she had 3 children, but all of them were far from home and none of them were coming to help her or even to give her a call. And then I started to tell her that there's a God who loves her and that He sent His only begotten son to die for her,

to pay the price for our sins. I asked her if she had a Bible and she said she had always wanted to buy one, but they were expensive, so she couldn't get one. And then I told her, "Today I can give you one for free." She couldn't believe it and asked me to say it again. I repeated, "Today I can give you one for free, as a gift."

So I began looking in my bag, but there was no Bible. Immediately I called my friend and he said, "I just gave my Bible to one of the neighbors," but he promised to run to the car to bring another for me. After 10 or 15 minutes, he came with the Bible.

I gave the Bible to the lady; she was so happy for it, and she promised us to take care of it, because for a long time she had wanted one.

After we left her home and we were on our way back to the car I asked my friend, "Why did it take you so long to come with the Bible?" He explained, "I arrived at the car and I wanted to come very quickly, so I decided to take the car to be able to bring the books faster." He had gotten into the car and turned on the ignition, but the car didn't start. We had never had this problem before. He tried again and again, but no result. He checked the engine, but



it was okay. He tried again to start the car, but again, no result. Then he decided to take the Bible and walk back. And then I predicted: "Now when we go back to the car, it will start on the first try." He said, "I don't know; maybe we are out of gas."

But when we arrived at the car, it was just like I had supposed: The engine started on the first try. Then I told him that that woman really wanted the Bible, but the enemy of souls was just trying to delay his return so that the woman would leave without receiving it. Every time when you're trying to preach the gospel, Satan comes around to try to delay or discourage you, like when he came to Nehemiah when the Israelites were trying to rebuild the temple. But thankfully, because there were two of us, we were encouraging each other.

**I was scared first when
I saw you coming in my
yard, but I am happy
for what you did; I
appreciate it.**

THE HERITAGE ON THE HILLTOP

One time after a long day of walking up and down the hills, we saw another house far away on a distant hilltop. It was almost dark, so I told Adrian, "There's only one house there, so we won't go to that one because by the time we'll be returning, it will be too dark. But my friend said, "No, we are going there."

So we thought for a few seconds, and then I agreed, "Yes, let's go. It's only one house and since we've gone this far already, we can do one more." But then he said, "No, we had better go back to the car because it's really cold and now it's dark already." He wanted to go home—but because he saw that I was still thinking about what we should do, he decided, "Okay, we had better go to that house instead of staying here waiting for nothing."

So, we started walking to that house on top of the hill. When we arrived, we found an old woman on the street, trying to gather the leaves in front of her property. She was around 80 years old. We asked her how was she doing and

she answered that she was trying to finish her chore before dark because the next day she had something else to do.

Then we told her, "Let us help you." But she told us, "No, if you climbed all the way up this hill just to come here to me, you must have something really important to tell me." She stopped her work and said, "Let's have a seat and you tell me why you are here."

So, we told her that we had come to tell her some of the wonderful promises of God. We gave her books, and she started to cry, saying, "I cannot read this truth that you have given me, but I am happy that my grandchildren are going to school to learn how to read, and I will give it to them to read for me."

We were so touched, we felt for her, we prayed for her and then we left. Before, we had thought that it might not be worth it to climb all the way up there, but after we saw that she dropped her work just to listen us, we forgot about the dark, and about the cold weather.

We met a lot of old people. In the villages, the youth have left their homes to go and study, and after they finish their studies they get a job and never came back home. Every time we met these old people and told them some beautiful words, we were able to see them smiling. Sometimes we saw some tears as well, but this work made us happy. We were tired, but we were thirsty for those smiles and we continued




to labor till late in the night and to spend some quality time with everybody that received us.

WOOD-CHOPPING AND SOUL-WINNING

Another day, we saw a woman trying to cut wood to heat her house. We tried to talk to her, but she said she was not interested in Jehovah's Witnesses and that she was busy right then. So, I opened the gate and went inside her yard, took the ax, and gave her the books I had in my arms—telling her, "Please keep this for me till I finish here." Then I started to cut the wood for her. She was surprised at what I had done; she was there just looking at me and did not know what to say. So, she began reading some of the titles on our booklets and she started to tell me, "You know, I always was thinking that we have to face a Judgment."

Then I let her talk a little bit more, and after I saw her what was on her mind, I started to tell her about everything I felt would be of interest to her.

When I finished, I gave her the ax back, and we wanted to leave. Then she called us and exclaimed, "I do not even know your name! I was scared first when I saw you coming in my yard, but I am happy for what you did; I appreciate it. My neighbors that know me are not coming to help me, even if I tell them I will pay them for their work. But you never asked for money; what can I do for you?"

My answer was, "We thank God for giving us grace and strength day by day," and we left her with all the literature. Our brethren in that area have continued to follow up with her interest. 



We Must **KNOW**

By Andrew J. Harris

How very important it is to know that we are standing on the sure foundation, and to “Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).

Therefore we must know whether Jesus has promised to come again; whether His appearing will be visible; how many will witness it; in what manner He will come; and who will receive Him.


The Lord, the source of all wisdom, briefly answers all such questions. The Lord will return again. He says: “I go to prepare

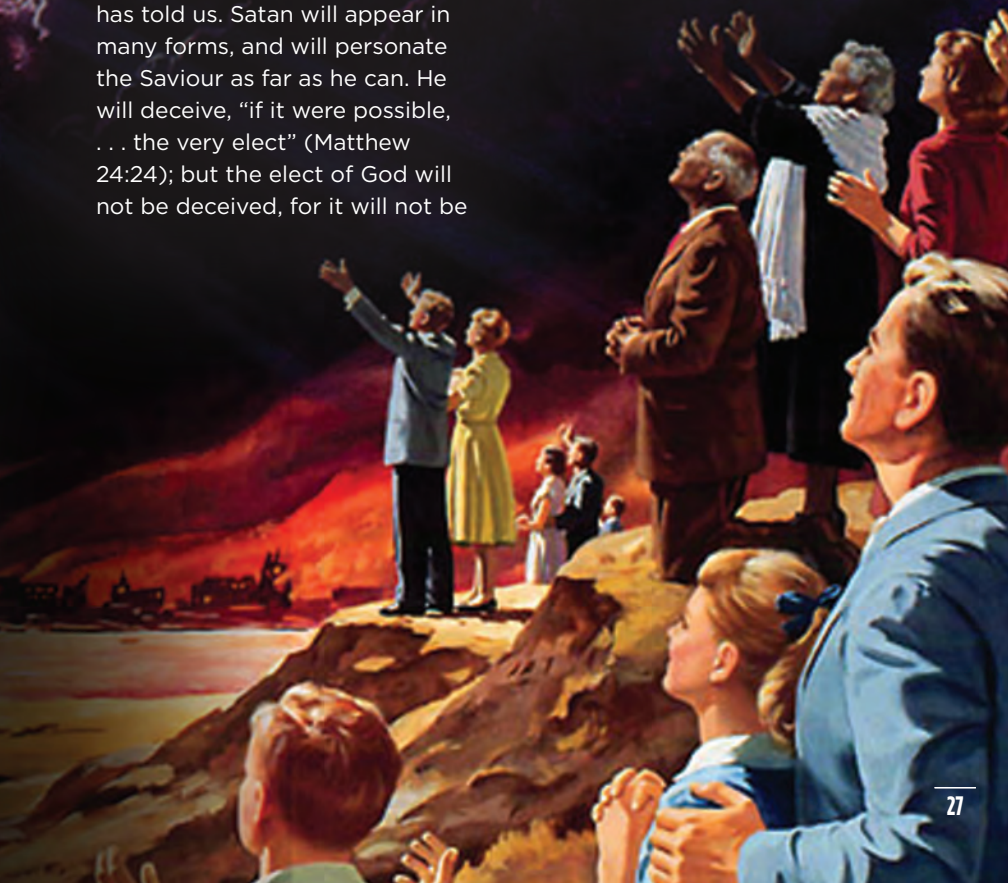
a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself” (John 14:2, 3). Luke also declares, in Acts 1:11, “This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

Then, will His appearing be visible?—Yes. His disciples watched Him ascend till a cloud received Him out of their sight. He went away in visible form, and the word is, He “shall so come in like manner.” John testifies to the same fact: “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him” (Revelation

1:7). He will not come quietly, manifesting Himself to only a few, but every eye shall look upon Him. The manner of His coming will be “with power and great glory.” Paul affirms: “The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8).

Only those who have been looking for Him will receive Him, and to such He will appear “the second time without sin unto salvation” (Hebrews 9:28). In these days of perplexity we may look for false christs, just as the Lord has told us. Satan will appear in many forms, and will personate the Saviour as far as he can. He will deceive, “if it were possible, . . . the very elect” (Matthew 24:24); but the elect of God will not be deceived, for it will not be

possible. Paul says: “Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness” (1 Thessalonians 5:4, 5). God's people will not be deceived by false christs; for they cannot imitate the glorious appearing of our Saviour. No; he or she that is acquainted with the Lord will believe what He has said. He or she will remember the manner in which Jesus has said He would appear; and to know and believe what He has said will deliver everyone from the snare of the deceiver. 



Bible ABC's

R

A city built by Hebrew slaves
for Pharaoh (Exodus 1:11).

Mother of Esau and Jacob
(Genesis 25:21, 26).

Hebrew name for a religious
teacher (John 3:2).

A family of obedient sons
(Jeremiah 35:5-8).

Younger daughter of Laban
(Genesis 29:16).

Heir to Solomon's throne
(1 Kings 11:43).

She protected the Israelite
spies in the conquest of
Jericho (Joshua 6:25).

Firstborn of Jacob and Leah
(Genesis 29:32).

Samuel's hometown
(1 Samuel 7:15-17).

Girl who came to the door when
Peter was delivered from prison
(Acts 12:13, 14).

The following quiz will test your knowledge of certain Bible names and places which begin with the letters R and S. Some answers are easy, others are more challenging. After you go through them all, pick out the ones you could not answer. Look up the verse prayerfully and read the entire context, asking God to give you greater spiritual understanding from what you find.

Try to discover more about that subject and about God's love shining through it by using a Bible concordance or the Spirit of Prophecy Index. It may take a bit more time, but this is what turns what might have seemed as only trivia into richer spiritual treasure. Enjoy!

S

Father of Boaz (Ruth 4:21).

A man bitterly betrayed by his lust for a woman (Judges 16:4, 16-21).

He tried to stop the rebuilding of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 4:1).

An elderly lady whose faith wrought a miracle (Hebrews 11:11).

Son of Leah who wrought evil with his brother Levi (Genesis 49:5-7).

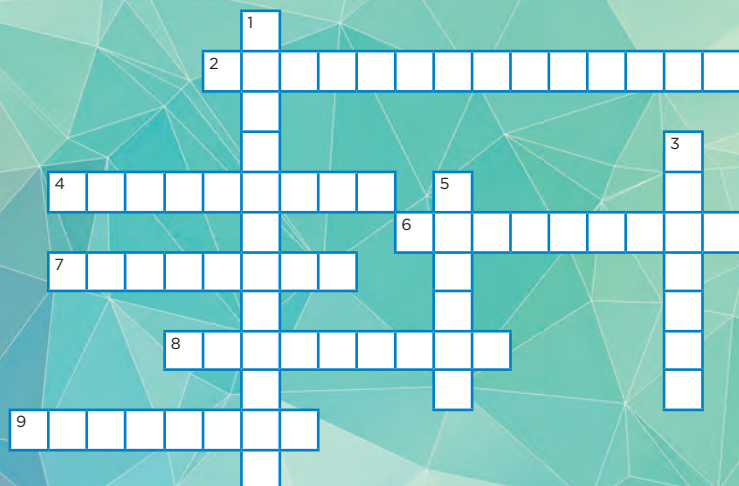
A cruel Assyrian king restrained in answer to prayer (2 Kings 19:20, 35, 36).

The Babylonian name given to Hananiah (Daniel 1:6, 7).

A Cyrenian man honored to bear the cross of Christ (Mark 15:20, 21).

Son of David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:24).

Israel's first king (1 Samuel 9:17).



ACROSS

2. The intelligence of _____ was taken away in order to humble him.
4. The white robe is a spiritual garment of _____.
6. It was a _____ for the fishermen to leave their employment.
7. The lady in Romania that had wood to chop realized we must face a _____.
8. The rich young ruler was _____ to work intelligently and successfully for the Master.
9. An abandoned ship is called a _____.

DOWN

1. _____ means hard, continuous work.
3. If we stick to our work, _____ will come.
5. We must know the _____ of Jesus' coming.

Editor Barbara Montrose, **Layout** Bethany Montrose, Daniel Lee.

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RIGHT OVER



There are lots of things that are wrong—things that break the Ten Commandments in one way or another. Those of us who have been taught from childhood that these things are wrong know the truth about them. Hopefully, we avoid them. Prayerfully, we never do them.

But often it seems as if we're surrounded by people who routinely do wrong. Somehow it doesn't seem like it's wrong if you can get away with it, right? Wrong!

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

So then, why are people so quick to do wrong? "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Ecclesiastes 8:11). They don't always get caught immediately, so they foolishly assume that it must be okay.


But the reality is this: right is right and wrong is wrong. Some may try to make everything grey and wipe out the distinction between right and wrong, but the

truth is the truth—and "no lie is of the truth" (1 John 2:21).

In this issue of the *Youth Messenger*, we're talking about some real issues that affect young people. We are living in an age when "judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter" (Isaiah 59:14). But even in the final generation of this fallen planet, God will have a people that know the difference between right and wrong—and behave uprightly, through His strength.

"God calls for men [and youth!] of decided fidelity. He has no use in an emergency for two-sided men. He wants men who will lay their hand upon a wrong work and say, 'This is not according to the will of God.'"—*Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 153.

It will take courage to stand boldly for what is right, regardless of the cost. But we are bidden, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

May the Lord grant us this type of courage. Jesus gave His life to make it possible! 

The Years Pass On

"When I'm a woman, you'll see what I'll do.
I'll be great and good and noble and true;
I'll visit the sick and relieve the poor;
No one shall ever be turned from my door;
But I'm only a little girl now,"—
And so the years passed on.

"When I'm older, I'll have more time
To think of heaven and things sublime;
My time is now full of studies and play,
But I really mean to begin some day;
I am only a little girl now,"—
And so the years passed on.

"When I'm a woman," a gay maiden said,
"I'll try to do right and not be afraid;
I'll be a Christian, and give up the joys
Of the world, with all his dazzling toys;
But I'm only a young girl now,"—
And so the years passed on.

"Ah me!" sighed a woman gray with years,
Her heart full of cares and doubts and fears;
"I've kept putting off the time to be good,
Instead of beginning to do as I should;
But I'm an old woman now,"—
And so the years passed on.

Now is the time to begin to do right;
Today, whether skies be dark or bright,
Make others happy by good deeds of love,
Looking to Jesus for help from above;
And then you'll be happy now,
And glad as the years pass on.

—Author unknown