

Youth messenger

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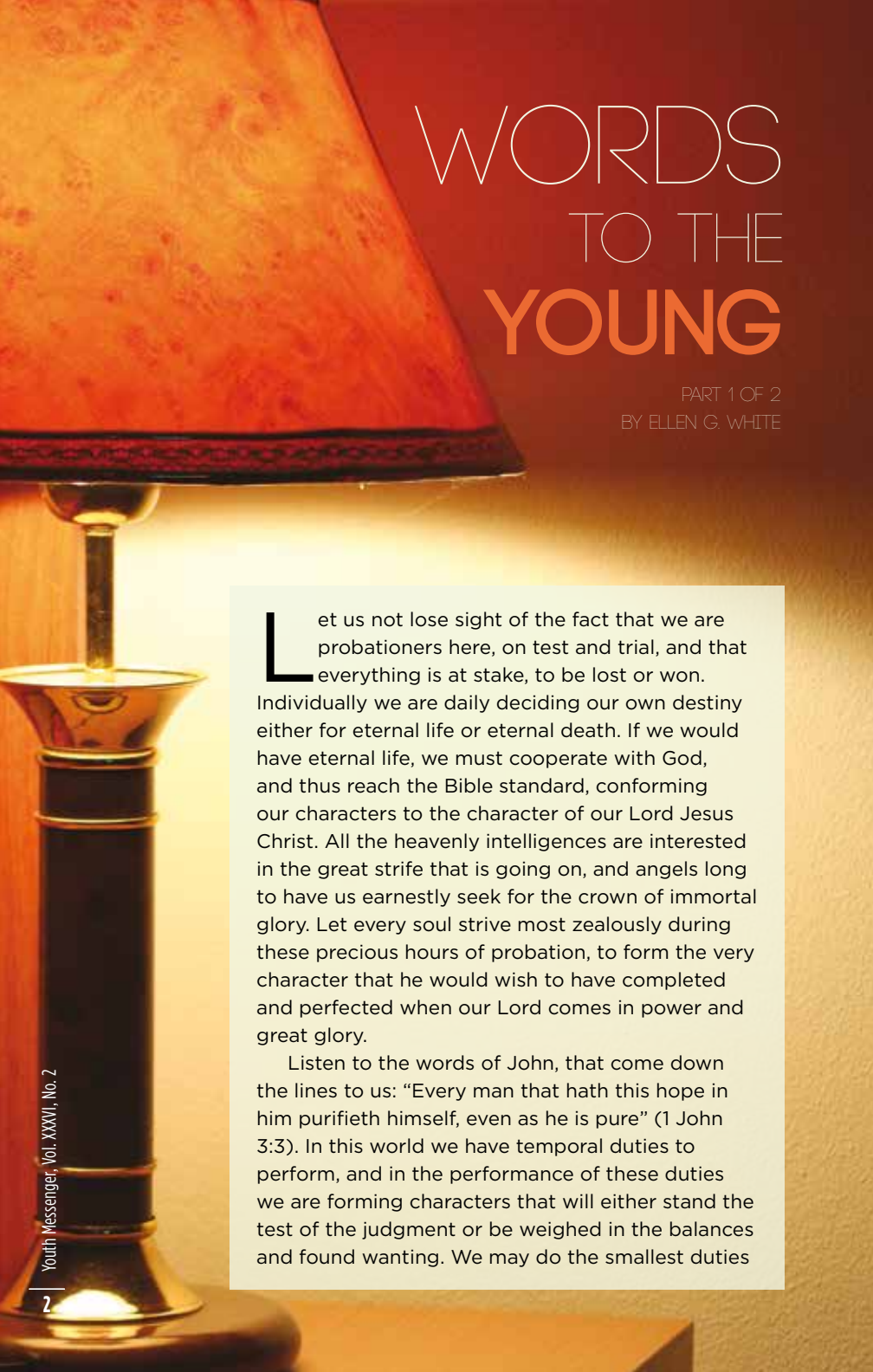
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WORDS TO THE YOUNG

PART 1 OF 2
BY ELLEN G. WHITE

Let us not lose sight of the fact that we are probationers here, on test and trial, and that everything is at stake, to be lost or won. Individually we are daily deciding our own destiny either for eternal life or eternal death. If we would have eternal life, we must cooperate with God, and thus reach the Bible standard, conforming our characters to the character of our Lord Jesus Christ. All the heavenly intelligences are interested in the great strife that is going on, and angels long to have us earnestly seek for the crown of immortal glory. Let every soul strive most zealously during these precious hours of probation, to form the very character that he would wish to have completed and perfected when our Lord comes in power and great glory.

Listen to the words of John, that come down the lines to us: "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:3). In this world we have temporal duties to perform, and in the performance of these duties we are forming characters that will either stand the test of the judgment or be weighed in the balances and found wanting. We may do the smallest duties

nobly, firmly, faithfully, as if seeing the whole heavenly host looking upon us. Take a lesson from the gardener. If he wishes a plant to grow, he cultivates and trims it; he gives water, he digs about its roots, plants it where the sunshine will fall upon it, and day by day he works about it; and not by violent efforts, but by acts constantly repeated, he trains the shrub until its form is perfect, and its bloom is full. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ works upon the heart and mind as an educator. The continued influence of His Spirit upon the soul, trains and molds and fashions the character after the divine model. Let the youth bear in mind that a repetition of acts, forms habit, and habit, character. "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36). Are you, my youthful friends, able to look forward with joyful hope and expectancy toward the day when the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall appear? and will He confess your name before the Father and before His holy angels?

The very best preparation we can have for His second coming, is to rest with firm faith, with trust and unshaken confidence, in the great salvation brought to us at His first advent. We must believe that Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many. Is He your personal Saviour? Are

**Is the love of Christ
a living, active agent
in your soul . . .
correcting, reforming,
refining you, and
purifying you?**


you, because the love of Jesus is abiding in your heart, saved from making mistakes and errors? Is the love of Christ a living, active agent in your soul, correcting, reforming, refining you, and purifying you from your wrong practices? There is need of cultivating every grace that Jesus, through His suffering and death, has brought within your reach. You are to manifest the grace that has been so richly provided for you, in the small as well as in the large concerns of life.

There are young men and young women who are very much opposed to order and discipline. They pay no heed to rules for rising and retiring at regular hours, but burn the midnight oil, and then lie in bed in the morning for one or two hours after daylight. At night they depend upon artificial light; for they regard the expenditure of money for artificial light as a trivial matter, and break up all the precious habits of order. They idle away their time in the morning hours, and thus make it necessary to stay up at night, and use fuel and light for which there

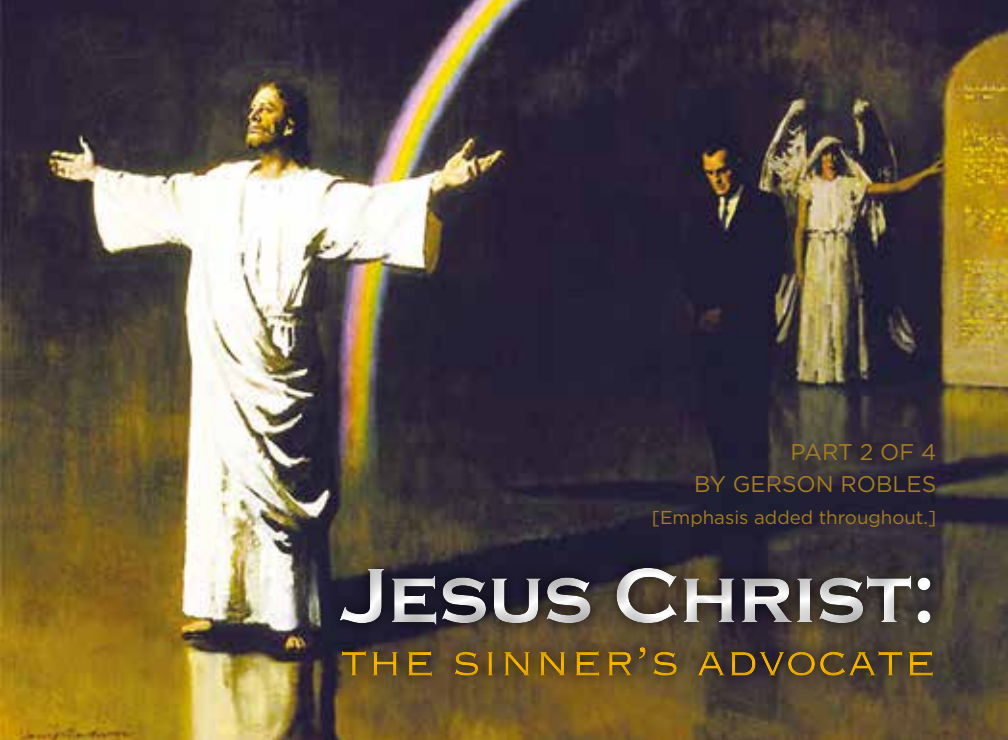
Let those who are
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serving the Lord.

must be extra expense, when, had they properly employed the early hours, there would have been no need of late hours. It is true they will make the excuse for their late hours, that they cannot get through their work. They will say, "There are things that I must do before I can retire for the night." Would it not be well to break up the habit of turning the precious morning hours into night, and turning the hours of night into day by the use of artificial light?

How prevalent is the habit of turning day into night, and night into day. Many youth sleep soundly in the morning, when they should be up with the early singing birds, and be stirring when all nature is awake. Let youth practice regularity in the hours for going to bed, and for rising and they will improve in health, in mind, in spirit, in disposition. Let them purpose in their hearts that they will bring themselves under discipline, and practice orderly rules. God is a God of order, and it is the duty of the youth to observe strict rules; for such practices will work for their advantage.

As far as possible, it is well to consider what is to be accomplished through the day. Make a memorandum of the different duties that await your attention, and set apart a certain time for the doing of each duty. Let everything be done with thoroughness, neatness, and dispatch. If it falls to your lot to do the chamber [house] work, then see that the rooms are well aired, and that the bed clothing is exposed to the sunlight. Give yourself a number of minutes to do the work, and do not stop to read papers and books that take your eye, but say to yourself, "No, I have just so many minutes in which to do my work, and I must accomplish my task in the given time." If the room is decorated with little ornaments, and you would have an eye single to the glory of God, let these little idols be stored away; but if this cannot be done, and these ornaments must be exposed for your admiration, then handle them expeditiously. Do not take them up, one after another, and as you dust them, dream over each one, and hesitate and admire, keeping it in your hand as though you were loth to replace it. Let those who are naturally slow of movement, seek to become active, quick, energetic, remembering the words of the apostle, "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11). —*The Youth's Instructor*, September 7, 1893. 

—To be continued in the next issue.



PART 2 OF 4
BY GERSON ROBLES

[Emphasis added throughout.]

JESUS CHRIST: THE SINNER'S ADVOCATE

For 4,000 years, God restrained Himself from carrying out justice against sin. Because of Christ's pledged blood, God was able to overlook the sins of the human race and exercise mercy towards us. But this meant that God would now stand accused of not being just—for overlooking the sins of the human race. But through the death of His own Son, God actually stands vindicated as completely righteous because He is both just and merciful.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through

faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Romans 3:23-26).

Let's not think of God as being indifferent to our needs and tragic circumstances. Let us remember the words, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son. . ." And Jesus emphasized the love of the Father when He said, "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again" (John 10:17).

Remember that all Christ did on earth was to reveal the Father.

He is the image of the invisible God. The work of our Advocate then is not to try and convince God to have mercy—because He already did have mercy. It is not to try and convince God to have sympathy—because He already proved His sympathy.

“God commendeth [proved] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

Christ’s advocacy is not to try and get God to be more patient with us, because God is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. “The Lord is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

To get a correct understanding of the work of Jesus Christ our Advocate, then we must turn to the Scriptures.

WHY DID WE NEED AN ADVOCATE?

To answer this question, there is a word in the Bible that we need to understand. That word is the last word found in Romans 5:11. That word is “atonement.”

“For if, **when we were enemies**, we were **reconciled to God** by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the **atonement**” (Romans 5:10, 11).

So what does the word “atonement” mean? It is easier

to understand it if we break it up into “*at-one-ment*.” The word describes the **result** of the ministry of Christ. It is a literal representation of the reality of our restored relationship with God; at-one-ment. We are “at-one” with Him again. The atonement is the work of bringing together or reconciling sinful humanity with a holy God. Why? Because we are estranged. Why were we estranged?

“Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2).

There’s something we should understand about sin. Sin drives us from the presence of God. It is totally opposed to the character of God and therefore cannot dwell in His presence. What do we see Adam and Eve doing as soon as they sinned?

“Adam and his wife **hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden**” (Genesis 3:8).

Sin alienates people and destroys relationships. We should therefore expect to see God as far away as possible from Adam and Eve as soon as they sinned, but do we? We don’t! Why do we see “God walking in the midst of the garden” searching for Adam and Eve? This is an Advocate searching. The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world was bearing the guilt of Adam and Eve already.

So this is why we needed the at-one-ment. Sin alienates us from God. Notice how Paul describes this alienation and the atonement.

“That at that time ye were **without Christ**, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope**, and **without God in the world**: but now in Christ Jesus ye who **sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ**” (Ephesians 2:12, 13).

Now when Adam sinned, his nature became evil and the scriptures teach that as a result of Adam’s transgression, “many were made sinners” (Romans 5:19). Because of Adam’s sin, every child that is born, is born into this world into a state of alienation or estrangement from God. This is what we just read before in Ephesians. Let’s read it from the book of Psalms also:

“The wicked are **estranged from the womb**: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies” (Psalm 58:3).


Sin broke our relationship with God—and as soon as our relationship with God ceased, there commenced our relationship with the enemy of God. But sinners are not only in a state of estrangement, but are in a state of hostility against God. The Bible says that we are by “nature the children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3). For this reason, we needed the atonement. God did not want to lose any one of

us, for He is “not willing that any should perish” (2 Peter 3:9).

In the case of the human race, the work of at-one-ment commenced as soon as there was sin. As soon as there was alienation, there was reconciliation. As soon as there was sin, there was an atonement for sin. As soon as there was a separation through sin, there was a Mediator, an Intercessor, a High Priest, an Advocate working to restore the relationship between humanity and God. Notice this verse (this verse takes us back before creation):

“Yea, **truth faileth**; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and **the LORD saw it**, and **it displeased him that there was no judgment**. And **he saw that there was no man, and wondered [was stunned] that there was no intercessor**: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him” (Isaiah 59:15, 16).

The Godhead was stunned and deeply stirred with pity by the plight of humanity. There was a definite plan made to redeem the lost race, and this plan was made before the world began.

“Who verily **was foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you” (1 Peter 1:20), “Him, being delivered by the **determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God**” (Acts 2:23). 

—To be continued in the next issue.

A man in a dark suit and tie is shown from the chest up, holding a glowing city skyline within his hands. The background is a soft, hazy cityscape at sunset or sunrise.

My Future and God

BY HUDSON
GESSNER

We read in Proverbs 16:3, “Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.”

When we’re young, we have lots of plans for our future. Are these plans approved by God? This is a question we need to ask ourselves.

WHO OWNS THE FUTURE?

Remember when Paul was going to Rome? He started the voyage with a certain destination in mind. But on his way, between Crete and Rome, a tempestuous wind came, a Euro’clydon, a type of cyclone, and the ship couldn’t make any headway. Those on board lost the cargo and they lost their hope.

The downside of following our will, how tragic it can be!

The ship with its valuable cargo was lost. They were carrying wheat from Egypt, which was the source of food for Rome. They lost everything. All was thrown overboard.

But God had other plans.

We read in Acts 27:20-26 that “when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man’s life among you, but of the ship. For there stood

by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.”

Paul was God’s representative in the midst of hopelessness. But by faith the apostle knew that everything would work out for good!

With the visit of Paul, all that were sick in that island were healed.

In Jeremiah 29:11, God tells us “I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord,

GOD HAS PLANS FOR US.

GOD HAS PLANS OF PEACE.

GOD HAS PLANS TO GIVE US HOPE.

GOD HAS PLANS FOR OUR FUTURE.

GOD CARES ABOUT THE FINAL RESULT.

GOD OWNS EVERYTHING AND HE CONTROLS EVERYTHING.

GOD KNOWS THE FUTURE AND WHAT IS BEST FOR US. HE OWNS IT.

thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” The New International Version has a really encouraging translation of this verse. It reads:

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE TRY TO FOLLOW OUR OWN WAY?

Remember the experience with the Tower of Babel. God had told the people to “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.” But they decided not to do that. If they would have listened to God’s word, we might not have had the complication of all these different languages that we have today. Imagine going to any country in the world and still being able to speak and understand everyone. But unfortunately, that did not happen. Instead, God introduced different languages and they were **forced** to separate themselves.

Psalms 138:10 explains, “The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.”

MOST OF THE TIMES WE TRY TO PLAY MINI GODS, AND EVEN AS GREAT GODS

“Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city,

and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that” (James 4:13-15).

“Woe unto them that seek



deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us? Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?" (Isaiah 29:15, 16).

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

IF MY LIFE DEPENDS ON GOD, SHOULD I PLAN FOR TOMORROW?

We are to plan carefully. Yet we are also warned against having anxious thoughts. Jesus says, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matthew 6:34).

The Greek word translated here as "thought" is "merimnao" which means to be anxious. Having a lack of faith brings us to depressing and perplexing thoughts.

HOW SHOULD WE PLAN OUR FUTURE IF WE WANT TO SUCCEED?

"Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established" (Proverbs 15:22).


SEEK COUNSEL FROM THE BEST COUNSELOR

"This also cometh forth from the Lord of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working" (Isaiah 28:29).

IF I SHOULD MAKE PLANS, WHAT IS MY ROLE IN PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE?

"I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved" (Psalm 16:8). If you have any plans for your life, make sure God approves them and make sure He is guiding you.

Let us say, If God wills—and really mean it!

"There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand" (Proverbs 19:21). 

THE *Art* OF Attaining A CHRISTIAN *Character*

BY CALEB MORENO
[Emphasis supplied throughout.]

Many times we Christians think it is impossible to be perfect; but we know that's not true!

If we take a look at the typical dictionary definition of “perfect” we see that it means to have all the required or desirable elements, qualities, or characteristics; to be as good as it is possible to be. Even the dictionary implies that it is not really possible to be perfect!

In the Bible, we have at least 2 examples of perfection (but there are many more): First, we have Christ—who lived on this earth for 33 years and was 100% perfect in character and in all aspects of His life. Then we have Enoch, who lived on this earth for 365 years,

which is much longer than any of us will ever live, and he was 100% perfect in all aspects of life, not just character.

So, it is possible to be perfect; in fact, it's 100% possible to be perfect. However, it is our inclination to sin and our stubbornness to exclude God from our daily character building lessons that makes it much harder for us to attain a **perfect character** and often makes it next to impossible—if not totally impossible! We have to put our stubbornness aside and die to self so that Jesus Christ can help us.

Character is one of the hardest things to develop. When we look at the meaning of character (the mental and moral qualities

distinctive to an individual), we see that our character defines us; our character is what people see. When people see our character they can pretty much tell what kind of person we are, whether it be good or bad. Remember: having a good character is one of the most important things in life!

Proverbs 22:1 says: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold." According to God, having a good name is better than being rich! Have you ever thought about your name being tied to your character? When people hear your name, what do they think? Is it good or bad? Do they think of you as a loving, temperate, humble person? Or a mean, self-centered, boastful human being? Whether we like it or not, our character represents our name.

In Hebrew times, names often stood for something. In fact, the following quote sheds some light on that: "The names of Daniel and his companions were changed to names representing Chaldean deities. Great significance was attached to the names given by Hebrew parents to their children. Often these stood for traits of character that the parent desired to see developed in the child."—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 480, 481.

The reason behind the Hebrew parents naming their children after names that stood for traits of character was because those names represented God. For example: Daniel's Hebrew name meant: "God is my Judge." Hebrew parents had hoped that by naming their children names which stood for traits of character representing God, those traits would be seen in them.

NOW, I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU:

DOES YOUR NAME/CHARACTER REPRESENT GOD?

DOES YOUR CHARACTER SHOW YOUR FAITH IN GOD?

DOES YOUR CHARACTER SHOW THAT YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN?

The Babylonians changed the names of Daniel and his three friends to try to get them to forget their God.

Hopefully the answer is yes to all of these questions. If not, then we are in need of serious help from God.

In order for us to have a Christlike character, what traits do we need? Colossians 3:12-15 says that we are to be a new person with holiness and mercy, plus "kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man

have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

It doesn’t matter where you come from or whether you are black, white, red, or yellow. All of humanity are God’s creatures; each and every one of us have been equally purchased by His blood—which means, everyone can attain the perfect character that Christ had.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22, 23). In order to have the characteristics of Christ, we must have these 9 traits in order to have a perfect character.

THE QUESTION IS: HOW MANY OF THESE TRAITS (THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT) DO YOU HAVE?

OR DO YOU HAVE ALL OF THEM?

ONLY YOU CAN ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS!

Is it easy to get these characteristics? NO, of course it’s not! If it were easy we’d have no need to strive so hard. Because of our human nature we think that things that seem impossible to

get aren’t worth trying to get, but that’s not so in this case.

If we truly want a perfect character then we will do everything in our power to get that perfect character and ONLY with the help of God will we be able to accomplish it.

Now, there is one character trait that we must have, and if we don’t, then we have no need of even trying to perfect our character. 1 John 4:8 says: “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” If we don’t have “**love**” then we have no need even to try to perfect our character. If you notice, the first fruit of the Spirit is “**love**” and it is there for a reason. Everything about God is based on love.

“It is upon Christlike love that brotherhood depends. Without this love nothing can be done toward fulfilling God’s purpose for humanity. Without it all effort is without avail.”—*The Review and Herald*,

July 21, 1910.

When we examine this quote, we see that without love, **nothing** can be done toward fulfilling God’s plan for humanity. That includes perfecting character. It doesn’t matter how much good you do, it doesn’t matter if you

die for someone. If you don’t have **love** it profits you NOTHING! 1 Corinthians chapter 13 talks about faith, hope, and love, and declares that the greatest of these is love. If Christ didn’t have the love He

has for us then you wouldn't be here reading this right now! We **must** have the love of Christ in our daily character.



WHAT KIND OF TREE AM I?

How can we be a good fruit tree and not a bad one?

"Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:17-20).

In John chapter 15, Christ compares Himself to a vine in which we (His people) are the branches. What happens to a branch that loses its connection to its roots? It eventually dies! Usually within 1 or 2 days. What happens to us when we lose our connection to the main source (Christ)? We, too, will eventually die. We may live a nice long life of 70, 80, or 90 years, but, in

the end, we will officially die if we aren't connected to Christ! When a branch is cut off from the tree (literally speaking), it has no second chance. Its life is over! However, we do still have a second chance.

Jesus says, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me" (John 15:4). We must abide in Christ. That is the only way we can survive spiritually!

Christ has to be the center of our life. There's no way around it!

"Christ has given us no assurance that to attain perfection of character is an easy matter. A noble all-round character is **not inherited**. It does **not** come to us **by accident**. A noble character is earned by **individual effort** through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the **talents**, the **powers of the mind**; we form the **character**. It is formed by **hard, stern battles with self**. **Conflict** after **conflict** must be waged against **hereditary tendencies**. We shall have to **criticize ourselves** closely, and allow not one **unfavorable trait** to **remain uncorrected**.

Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. **The impossibility lies in your own will**. If you will

not, then you cannot overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God.”—*Messages to Young People*, p. 99.


So, are we going to attain a perfect character without working for it? NO! We have to fight for it! We don't get a perfect character over night. As I said, we have to earn it; it's only by individual effort that we get a perfect character. We have, thanks to God, all that we need to attain a perfect character; we just have to use it!

What happens to those who do not remedy their defects of character? They fail to obtain everlasting life. We can't allow one unfavorable character flaw to remain untouched. We must correct each one! And in all honesty, the impossibility lies in our own mindset. We think we can't, we think we're unable to be perfect, but it's really our mindset. We're afraid of submitting to the control of God. Without God we can't and won't ever be able to be perfect.

This is so **important!** The only way we can attain a perfect character and anything else in life is to give Christ FULL control of our life.

“Those who fail to realize their constant dependence upon God will be overcome by temptation. We may now suppose that our feet stand secure, and that we shall never be moved. We may say with confidence, ‘I know in whom I have believed; nothing can shake my faith in God and in His word.’ But Satan is planning to take advantage of our hereditary and cultivated traits of character, and to **blind our eyes** to our own **necessities and defects**. Only through realizing our own **weakness**, and **looking steadfastly unto Jesus**, can we walk securely.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 382.

Yes, the road to perfection of character isn't easy and at times may seem impossible. But with Christ's help all things are possible. If we abide in Christ then He will abide in us! We have to examine our lives thoroughly in order to realize our issues and defects of character.

We must also make sure that we don't let Satan use our hereditary and cultivated traits of character to blind us and cause us to make a complete mess of our life. The only way we can do this is to focus firmly upon our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 

OUR GREATEST PROBLEM IS THAT WE TRY TO DO EVERYTHING WITHOUT THE HELP OF GOD, BUT THAT DOESN'T WORK. IT NEVER WILL!

PHILIPPIANS 4:13 SAYS: “I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENETH ME.”

Come Rest Awhile

BY SERBAN IONITA

“I haven’t received your application yet,” declared Peter Lausevic, my teacher, my mentor, and dare I say my favorite minister. We were sitting at the youth lunch table when Brother Peter got the chance to ask me why he had not yet received my application to the Johannesburg 2017 project in South Africa. I proceeded to tell him that my school would interfere, and even if I came after final exams, I would already be two weeks late to the project. “That’s fine” he said, “I’d rather have four weeks than nothing at all.” This was in November, and one month later I would find myself reuniting with my Australian friends from half a world away, hearing, teaching, and feasting on God’s Word together.

It was at missionary school that Brother Peter originally invited all of the students to go to South Africa, and I thought I wouldn’t be able to go. But one can never fully understand God’s providence. Because after I came

from Australia, little by little I was absorbed in school until the burden became too great and I was overwhelmed. My soul was thirsty for the knowledge of Jesus because I had lost sight of Him, and did not know how to find Him again.

And then came the invitation, “I haven’t received your application yet.” Sitting at the table on a Sabbath day, enjoying rest, and contemplating my future, it was as if Jesus Himself said the words to my heart, “Come, rest awhile.” This was my chance, to come back to God, to walk with Him again, to enjoy the sweet communion of His heavenly presence. And so I went.

This project was God’s chosen opportunity to reveal Himself to me all over again. And so it was that I arrived, and on my first day, we visited an orphanage, and I saw the multitudes of kids so happy to play with their foreign visitors. We did Bible work, and as we



prayed we experienced God hearing and answering our prayers. We met people on the street and they welcomed us to their homes to share the Word of God. I woke up in the morning, and as I opened my devotional and bowed on my knees, I heard the blessed assurance of the Prince of Peace, “Lo I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). He supplied strength for the day ahead, and we went forward, with God before us.

We prayed that we might experience the deep things of God, and be able to share the Word of life with those around us. One afternoon as we were about to start a Bible study, a man who recently got out of prison joined us, and afterwards asked us for help. He had secured a job and a place to live, and needed money for transport, as it was a couple of hours away. My friend Elisabeth

came up with a brilliant plan: “Let us invite him to come for a Bible study tomorrow about prayer, and if he comes, we may share with him quite practically how the Lord answers prayer, and take him to the bus station and buy the ticket he needs.” Wow, amazing plan! What an experience with the Lord that would be for him. Unfortunately, we never got to tell him about that proposition. After worship, we lost sight of him in the crowd; the day had passed, we had not helped him, and chances were that we might never see him again.

Days passed, and we kept working. It was on a Friday night when God blessed the youth especially, and as we were all walking together we started talking about conversion. We reiterated the Lord’s promises, “Ask, and ye shall receive.” Of how we may ask for a new experience,



to be converted, and have it that very hour. He is pleading for us to ask that He may shower upon us His blessings. We talked of God's miracle-working power in His word that "spake and it was done" (Psalm 33:9) and that speaks to us, "A new heart will I give you" (Ezekiel 36:26). We talked of all His promises that are ours to claim and ours to experience that very moment. What a blessed time we had, and when we came back, Elisabeth, Daniela, and I were thinking, "Why don't we pray for God to bring that man back?" "It is God's powerful word that made the world, that can give us a new heart, and that can touch his heart to come back." And so we prayed.

The days passed, we got busier and busier, and God poured out His blessing on our evangelistic meetings and our Bible studies, but the project was coming to an end. We were about to leave, and never would we know what became of that man. I still remember the day, the bright sun shining

outside with the gentle breeze filling the empty church hall; we had just finished class, and I was getting ready to move out, when Elisabeth came running in with the biggest smile, "He is back!" God brought him back. God answered our prayer, and we were able to share about that powerful word of prayer, and how God answered his prayer, because we would help him. And we helped him, and he helped us, because God answered our prayer and his prayer, and gave us all a deeper experience. You see, if we ask, God will give "good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over" (Luke 6:38). And the song that was sung so often became my experience: "Roll, roll your burdens away, for Jesus has promised to take them all. Amen" 🎵

**Your promises I now believe,
I come to you my burden to relieve
Your blessing to receive
I come dear Lord to ask, Your Spirit give
that I might with you forever live.**



May I Please Get a Like ?

BY GABRIEL SERBAN
PART 1 OF 2



"O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether" (Psalm 139:1–4).

God's access to us is unlimited. He can see beyond every shield or veil, beyond every hiding place of our soul. I'd like to analyze honestly something in our personal life, to analyze our relationships and the way we behave in "The Virtual World" that controls more and more of the real world in which we live.

What is meant by "The Virtual World"? It is impossible to live in the 21st century without hearing about the Internet. Even the oldest people know something about it—even if only by hearsay. The World Wide Web became generally available around 1990. Everyone, both young and old, even if they have not yet had any direct connection with this very interesting aspect of modern life, has at least heard parents or grandparents complaining: "Oh, my child always wants to be online."

MAY I PLEASE GET A "LIKE"?

What is a "Like"? This is used in social media when you post something. If people like that post, they will click the "Like" button, meaning that they like your post. A few days ago I had lunch with a friend. At one point this person told me with firm indignation: "Too bad you can't find a 'Dislike' button on Facebook." Indeed this button doesn't exist. You are only able to "unlike" the post if you decide you don't like it anymore and you're withdrawing the "Like" you had left there before. But you can't "dislike" that post, so you just either like it or mind your own business (keep quiet). Many times—you don't know from whom or from where—someone sends you a short message with something like: "May I please get a Like?" or there are other daring people that say: "If you really are my friend, prove it by liking my posts!"

But let's be fair: To like something, first of all I need a desire to participate in it, I have to agree with it, and I have to genuinely like it. God knows whether or not we are being honest in these matters. The psalmist explains in his prayer: "O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether" (Psalm 139:1-4).

This new realm for humanity raises serious questions that, sadly, due to lack of time, are insufficiently examined in the actual world in which we live. The Internet is a great challenge; it is a very complex conglomerate and sometimes it seems as if crazy things happen there without having any law, without having logic. The Virtual World is cleverly planned by its designers working behind the scenes. This world is very well planned in such a way that when a person getting online finds enough that is sufficiently attractive to keep him or her there, the click button on that mouse seems to become unruly enough until the person is no longer able to think that much about "should I click on this or not?" This world is directed in such a manner that when you click something you also get chances to go to other links for other websites totally different than what you had

originally sought. Woe to the one who goes online without having a specific goal in mind for it! There are plenty of websites to carry him or her practically anywhere they want. These other websites actually take advantage of the link system and they are making sure to lead you by the nose.

I am an Internet user. I like the Internet; there are wonderful things there. The possibilities to be found are almost unlimited—good information, creative things, edifying ideas, topics that can enrich you. But almost nothing comes without some danger, and the Internet does have its perils. The Virtual World is a trap for adults, but is especially dangerous for children. We must recognize that often even we, the adults, are caught in the tempting nets of the Internet. Really, how many of us have installed a filter on our Internet at home to keep our children and even ourselves far away from these traps? Even here there's a problem. The filters spot and partially fix the oldest problems from the past but in this Virtual World, daily there are new challenges and we are in a race to see who is faster. Can I go safely or will they outsmart me? Therefore, the challenges are ever new, as new corruptions appear every day and we tend to lag behind.

In a few words I'd like to mention some of the ways that the Internet may be a danger for us. Here are some perils to which we are exposing ourselves as we surf the web:

1. Identity

By the term “identity,” we are referring to all data that identifies a person.

Our personal data is at risk because often when using certain websites, we sign up for various things—and, without our realizing it, our information is then taken without our consent by the so-called “identity thieves” who use it for fraudulent purposes to our detriment.

There is a common practice today for crooks to try to distort their identity for different purposes. They make false claims, something not in harmony with what the genuine Christian ought to do. To make false representations about one’s home address, birthdate, and/or profession, is just a form of deceit. Another way that deceit is practiced is by distorting portraits that are posted in contrast to the way the person really looks.

Maybe we think these are just minor issues, but such practices are leading us step by step into forming an insincere character, accustomed to being false. If we would stop just for a moment to consider what God thinks about all our distorted posts, maybe we’d decide to change our attitude and try to be more sincere with ourselves and with others.

2. Privacy/Intimacy

Privacy, the various aspects about a person’s life, is often affected online. Many times this is simply due to a desire to escape the doldrums of anonymity by trying to stand out to be noticed. Because The Virtual World is suggesting to us different feelings that may characterize us, many choose to go ahead and make these feelings public, announcing that they are in a relationship and then that they are not anymore, that they got confused, that they are happy, or any other statement about their emotions—and often I don’t even understand what they are trying to say. Is it really appropriate for everybody to know about these things? It’s about privacy. When you post private things about yourself, you become vulnerable and are in danger of being attacked by those who know very well how to fix their target on you. By the details that you’re providing, you may be giving to others enough resources to make themselves clothes, clothes that they will wear—and in your name they (using your identity), they can commit all kind of weird and dirty things in The Virtual World. Beware! 🚫

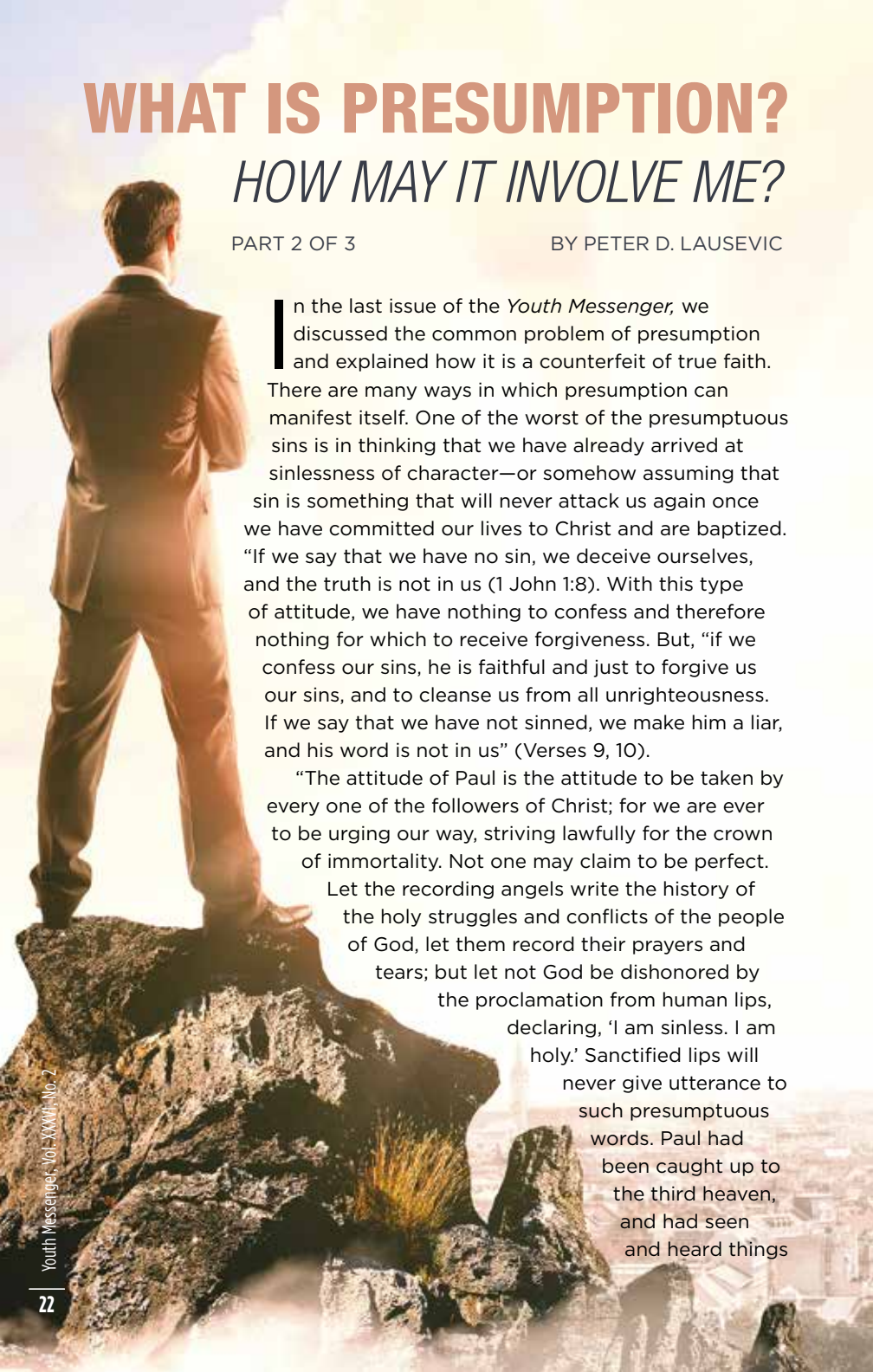
—To be continued in the next issue.

WHAT IS PRESUMPTION?

HOW MAY IT INVOLVE ME?

PART 2 OF 3

BY PETER D. LAUSEVIC

A man in a dark suit stands with his back to the camera, looking out over a city from a rocky, elevated position. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting sunrise or sunset. The city below is a dense urban landscape with many buildings. The man's posture is contemplative, and the overall mood is one of reflection and spiritual seeking.

In the last issue of the *Youth Messenger*, we discussed the common problem of presumption and explained how it is a counterfeit of true faith. There are many ways in which presumption can manifest itself. One of the worst of the presumptuous sins is in thinking that we have already arrived at sinlessness of character—or somehow assuming that sin is something that will never attack us again once we have committed our lives to Christ and are baptized. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8). With this type of attitude, we have nothing to confess and therefore nothing for which to receive forgiveness. But, “if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (Verses 9, 10).

“The attitude of Paul is the attitude to be taken by every one of the followers of Christ; for we are ever to be urging our way, striving lawfully for the crown of immortality. Not one may claim to be perfect.

Let the recording angels write the history of the holy struggles and conflicts of the people of God, let them record their prayers and tears; but let not God be dishonored by the proclamation from human lips,

declaring, ‘I am sinless. I am holy.’ Sanctified lips will never give utterance to such presumptuous words. Paul had been caught up to the third heaven, and had seen and heard things

that could not be uttered, and yet his modest statement is, 'Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after.' Let the angels of heaven write of Paul's victories in fighting the good fight of faith. Let heaven rejoice in his steadfast tread heavenward, keeping the prize in view for which he counts every other consideration as dross. Let the angels of heaven rejoice to tell his triumphs, but let Paul utter no vain praise of himself in making a boast of his attainments."—*The Signs of the Times*, May 23, 1895.

Rather, what should be our attitude? "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12-14).

The main reason for presumptuous sins is pride of our own will above God's will. "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

Such was the case of Babylon. "Call together the archers against Babylon: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done,

do unto her: for she hath been proud against the Lord, against the Holy One of Israel" (Jeremiah 50:29). The Hebrew word here translated as "proud" has the same root as the word elsewhere translated as "presumption."

Another illustration of this wrong type of attitude is found in the case of Pharaoh, where the same word in Exodus 18:11 is translated as "dealt proudly": "And Jethro said, Blessed be the Lord, who hath delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh, who hath delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them" (Exodus 18:10, 11).

But Pharaoh was not the only one with this problem. Even the children of Israel had it. The believers in Nehemiah's day confessed to God that "our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments, and refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not" (Nehemiah 9:16, 17). What a forgiving God we have!

Once again, we should emphasize that presumptuous

sin is when a person knows and understands the will of God but refuses to obey, deliberately relying on God's mercies to cover it. We read in Nehemiah 9:26-29 that although the children of Israel "were disobedient, and rebelled" against the Lord, He sought to bring them again unto His law. "Yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not" to His commandments, but sinned against His judgments "(which if a man do, he shall live in them;) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear."

This is also called rebellion or witchcraft. "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" (1 Samuel 15:23).

Why are people so prone to these types of sins? "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).


"How grateful we should be that the Lord is slow to anger! What a wonderful thought it is, that Omnipotence puts a restraint upon His mighty power! But because the Lord is forbearing and long-suffering, the human heart often manifests a tendency to venture presumptuously to add sin to sin! . . . Instead of God's patience hardening the sinner to continual transgression, it should lead him to determine to seek God's forgiveness, in order that the figures standing against his

account in the heavenly record may be canceled."—*The Upward Look*, p. 41.

"Because God is merciful, and ready to forgive, there are those who say that it is safe to disobey Him. But this is presumption. God will forgive all who seek pardon and turn away from sin. But those who choose to disobey Him He cannot bless."—*The Story of Jesus*, p. 46.

One thing that you will notice in these references to pride and presumption is that in each case someone is rebelling against the commandments of God. The psalmist declares, "Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments" (Psalm 119:21).

These are the very ones who war against the faithful ones who do keep God's law: "The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart." (Psalm 119:69).

Dear youth, what should therefore the prayer of each one of us be? "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. . . . Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression" (Psalm 19:7, 8, 12, 13). 

—To be continued in the next issue.



RESURRECTION— *Myth or Reality?*

PART 2 OF 2
BY RUDOLFO GESSNER

The account of Christ's resurrection, registered in the four books of the gospel, states that His resurrection occurred before His body witnessed corruption. He was resurrected by the divine power within Him, thus sealing the last chapter of Satan's condemnation. At that moment, Satan had concrete evidence of his condemnation.

On this occasion, there was also a multitude that resurrected. According to *Early Writings*, p. 184, they were saints that had lived from the time of creation to the day of Christ.

"When Jesus, as He hung upon the cross, cried out, 'It is finished,'

the rocks rent, the earth shook, and some of the graves were opened. When He arose a victor over death and the grave, while the earth was reeling and the glory of heaven shone around the sacred spot, many of the righteous dead, obedient to His call, came forth as witnesses that He had risen. Those favored, risen saints came forth glorified. They were chosen and holy ones of every age, from creation down even to the days of Christ. Thus while the Jewish leaders were seeking to conceal the fact of Christ's resurrection, God chose to bring up a company from their graves to testify that Jesus had risen, and to declare His glory."—*Early Writings*, p. 184.

Matthew 27:53 says that after Christ's resurrection these entered the holy city, Jerusalem, and appeared to many.

"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many" (Matthew 27:52, 53).

Let us emphasize a few interesting points:

1 Jesus did not make a point of presenting Himself to the masses after His resurrection. Instead, I understand that He focused His attention only on those who had believed in the gospel and in His mission.

2 He resurrected a multitude to testify of Him to the people, despite the priests' efforts to hide the fact.

3 The people that made up this multitude of resurrected individuals were people who had died over the span of 4,000 years. Obviously, they were buried in different places, but according to this account, all of them were in Jerusalem. This shows that it doesn't matter where one is buried, or how, but when it is time for the final resurrection, we will all be in the same place—surrounding Jerusalem, because where He was seen ascending, there will also His return be seen.

HOW SHALL WE RESURRECT?

In Genesis 3:19 we read: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it was thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

So all of us, when we die, return to dust. That is, we are part of the chemicals components of the earth, just like animals and vegetation. After a certain amount of time, there is no longer any trace of a human body, with the rare exceptions of petrified skeletons or those preserved by ice.

So, is there a difference between burying a body or cremating it? In the material sense, no, there is not. The result will be the same: dust or ashes.

If we are all dust, mixed with dirt, how then shall we resurrect?

In the wonderful chapter 15 of the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, in verse 50 we read that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Our current body composed of flesh and blood cannot be taken to heaven. So, in a blink of an eye, those who remain alive will be transformed into incorruptibility.

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 15:50).

The apostle asks: "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou

sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body” (1 Corinthians 15:35–38).

AN EXAMPLE FROM NATURE

The apostle uses the example of a grain of wheat. When we sow the wheat, the grain dies. Its life is extinguished—and in its place, a new stalk of wheat emerges, which will, in turn, produce new seeds.

When we place a bean on a wet piece of cotton, it germinates, and after it has performed its role, the old bean is no longer in use. But the new plant is already there.

Verse 38 says that God gave the grain a body as it pleased Him and to every seed its own body. God will recreate us. He will give us a new everything. None of what we have today with defects or illness will exist because He will give us a new body. Only our character will remain.

“Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved. In the resurrection every man will have his own character. God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the breath

of life, and bidding the dry bones live. The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect. It lives again bearing the same individuality of features, so that friend will recognize friend. There is no law of God in nature which shows that God gives back the same identical particles of matter which composed the body before death. God shall give the righteous dead a body that will please Him.”—*Maranatha*, p. 301.

Thus, God does not need the body of John Huss’ ashes to give him back the life that was taken from him by fire.

NOW, WHEN SHALL WE RESURRECT?

The subject of resurrection is part of Bible doctrine (Hebrews 6:1, 2), and studying the order of the last events, we will find the account of three resurrections, each with a specific and distinct group:



Special Resurrection:

Part of the 144,000 +
the persecutors of Christ

“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2).

“Graves are opened, and ‘many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth . . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt’ (Daniel 12:2). All who have died in the faith of the third angel’s message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God’s covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. ‘They also which pierced Him’ (Revelation 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ’s dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient.”—*The*

Great Controversy, p. 637.

This resurrection will occur during the time of anguish. Two groups will resurrect:

Died under the third angel’s message and leave the grave glorified to complete the number of the sealed. In other words, they unite themselves with the living and now all of the 144,000 are alive and awaiting the coming of Jesus.

Those who transgressed. Those who mocked and jeered Christ. The staunchest enemies of His truth and His people, these awake to see Jesus return in His majestic glory, and to see the honor given to the faithful and obedient. This group shall be overcome by the glory of Christ, and at

the end of the millennium will receive their recompense.

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (Revelation 1:7).



The 1st Great Resurrection:

The Redeemed

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6).

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written,

Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:51–54).

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

“Amid the reeling of the earth, the flash of lightning, and the roar of thunder, the voice of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven, He cries: ‘Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!’ Throughout the length and breadth of the earth the dead shall hear that voice, and they that hear shall live. And the whole earth shall ring with the tread of the exceeding great army of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 644.

This resurrection includes all of the saved, all who have fallen asleep in Christ, all who have their name written in the book of life. These shall ascend with Christ to heaven and will spend a thousand years with Him.

“But the rest of the dead lived


not again until the thousand years were finished” (Revelation 20:5).

All who will perish in the second eternal death will resurrect only after the thousand years are ended. Their resurrection will occur when Christ comes to establish the new capital of the universe on Earth. At this time will be destroyed every trace of sin and of the sinners who did not accept the sacrifice of God for the remission of sin.

As you can see, the Bible shows that there will be three distinct groups on three different occasions. Each group has its own characteristics.

If you live after the year 1844 **and know the message of the Sabbath**, the third angel’s message, you should be ready to participate in this special event, whether resurrected or transformed, at the special resurrection. Otherwise, you will be part of the great and final resurrection with the lost.

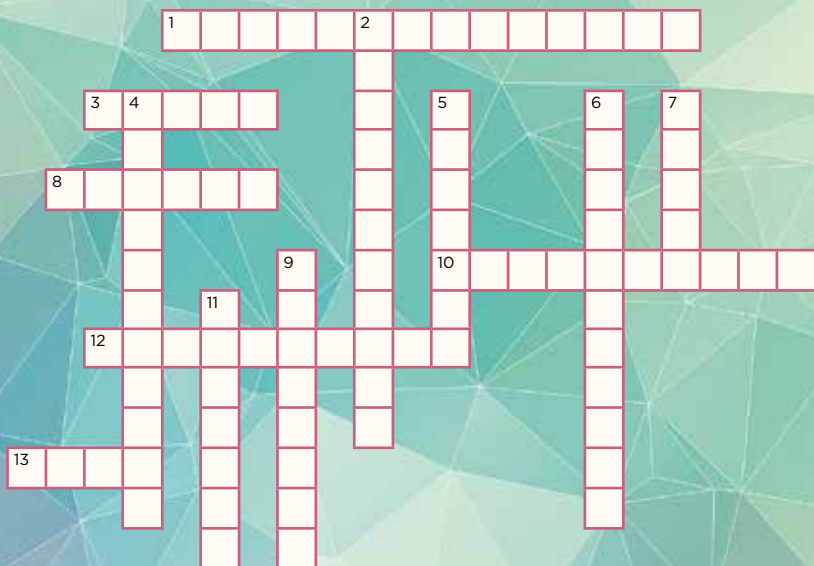
I believe in an amazing God, Who gives me the opportunity to live in the last days of the history of this earth. He promised me that I will no longer need this body with its illnesses and defects, but that if I am dead, He will recreate me. And if I am alive, He will transform me and give me a new immortal body.

I have this hope, and I believe you do, too!
God bless you. 



The 2nd Great Resurrection:

The Lost



ACROSS

1. Paul was God's _____ in the midst of hopelessness.
3. It is the duty of the youth to observe strict _____.
8. Three young people in South Africa wanted to buy a _____ to help a stranger.
10. Our _____ separate us from God.
12. Having a lack of faith brings us to depressing and _____ thoughts.
13. Many today seem obsessed with getting a _____.

DOWN

2. Bro. Serban was spiritually refreshed by doing missionary work in _____ (two words.)
4. We should not allow one unfavorable trait to remain _____.
5. Without Christlike love, _____ can be done toward fulfilling God's plan for humanity.
6. _____ is a counterfeit of faith.
7. Paul uses _____ to illustrate resurrection.
9. Many websites can put our _____ at risk.
11. To be saved, we under the third angel's message need to be in the _____ resurrection if we die.

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SUBMITTING TO SOMEONE WE CAN'T SEE

Sheep are docile creatures that easily submit to authority. That's a good thing; Christ Himself is known as the Lamb of God who meekly submitted to death by crucifixion in order to redeem His people from eternal ruin.

Scripture compares people to sheep; the psalmist pledges to God, "We thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations" (Psalm 79:13).

But the carnal nature of human pride is not usually submissive; it tends to be stubborn. Even when it does submit, it too often submits more to what it sees rather than to what is eternal and invisible. The result is that it's easy to imitate other people without thinking most of all about pleasing our beloved Father in heaven, simply because He is invisible.

Research shows that peer pressure starts very early for toddlers who spend most of their time in group settings. Little tots are more likely to copy the actions of a crowd than those performed by one person. This habit is common in the 21st century; it starts in daycare and goes on from there in life. We tend to follow the crowd and typically crave its approval, even when the crowd happens to be going the wrong way. But the Bible warns, "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" (Exodus 23:2).

So, in reading this *Youth Messenger*, seek to submit your heart to God instead of to people. Your faith will be richly rewarded, "for ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25). 

Come AND See

Come and see where Jesus dwelleth,
And the love that love excelleth;
Peace to calm earth's troubled waters,
O, ye weary sons and daughters,
Come and see!

Come and see the strength to bear you
Through the toils that else would wear you;
Pity for those sorrows hidden,
Help to do the "all things" bidden,
Come and see.

Wisdom that mistaketh never,
Fellowship death cannot sever;
Patience whence your soul may gather
Come and see.

Come and see compassion written
On a heart for others smitten;
Visage marred, but now resplendent,
Far beyond all earth transcendent.
Come and see.

Come and see a Friend that clingeth
Closer when the stormy-cry ringeth;
Listen to the voice so cheering,
Of a better time that's nearing.
Come and see.

Come and see the promise graven,
Of remaining rest in Heaven:
Peace I leave you, peace bequeath you,
Crosses now, but crowns shall wreath you.
Come and see.

Come and see, 'tis Christ, none other,
Jesus, Master, Elder Brother,
Who lived, who died, who liveth for us,
And o'er all shall reign victorious.
Come and see!

—Anna L. Price

"MASTER, WHERE DWELLEST THOU? HE SAITH
UNTO THEM, COME AND SEE" (JOHN 1:38, 39).