



Embers

If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 1 John 2:1

If Any Man Sin

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If Any Man Sin

When we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, we shall have no relish for sin; for Christ will be working with us. We may make mistakes, but we will hate the sin that caused the suffering of the Son of God.

If one who daily communes with God errs from the path, if he turns a moment from looking steadfastly unto Jesus, it is not because he sins willfully; for when he sees his mistake, he turns again, and fastens his eyes upon Jesus, and the fact that he has erred does not make him less dear to the heart of God. He knows that he has communion with the Saviour; and when reproved for his mistake in some matter of judgment, he does not walk sullenly, and complain of God, but turns the mistake into a victory.

There are those who have known the pardoning love of Christ, and who really desire to be children of God, yet they realize that their character is imperfect, their life faulty, and they are ready to doubt whether their hearts have been renewed by the Holy Spirit. To such I would say, Do not draw back in despair. We shall often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes; but we are not to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by the enemy, we are not cast off, not forsaken and rejected of God. No; Christ is at the right hand of God, who

also maketh intercession for us. Said the beloved John, "These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." And do not forget the words of Christ, "The Father himself loveth you." John 16:27. He desires to restore you to Himself, to see His own purity and holiness reflected in you. And if you will but yield yourself to Him, He that hath begun a good work in you will carry it forward to the day of Jesus Christ.

All sin ... may be overcome by the Holy Spirit's power.

From the book The Faith I Live By, page 118, by Ellen White.

The Privilege of Hospitality

Hospitality (from hospitable - given to generous and cordial reception of guests). This is a trait God both honors and desires to see in his children.

Abraham was an example of hospitality, in his treatment of the three travelers. See Genesis 18. Paul refers to this story when he says, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Heb 13:2.

In dealing with people, the most effective method for communicating the gospel is to come close to them by personal effort. Exercising hospitality is an important way this can be done. When I was younger, my parents often invited other church mem-

bers or visitors over to our house for Sabbath lunch and fellowship. This was a wonderful opportunity to get to know them better, and was a blessing to our family as well.

But think of the effect hospitality can have on others. Think especially of the new visitor to the church. They may not know anyone at the church, yet, if they are the recipient of loving hospitality, what a good impression will be given. How rarely someone comes to church on their own, and ends up staying! Such people need friends, and Christians should take every opportunity to be friends, and use their social influence for good.

What about the singles, the elderly, and the youth of the church. They are often in need of friendship, guidance, encouragement, or assistance in some way. You may not be able to lead a Bible study, but how refreshing to one of these is sincere hospitality. Even one visit to your home may be the means of saving someone. See Conflict and Courage, pg. 207.

And most importantly, what about the new member in the church? They may have recently left the fellowship of some other church, sometimes receiving the "left foot" of fellowship as they departed. Retaining new members is more important than the initial work of instruction. How often are new members welcomed, and then they "slip out the back door." What

can prevent this? Hospitality is a useful weapon in the Lord's arsenal to help retain members.

You don't have to know all the answers to the questions people might ask, but you can start by being friendly and interested in them and their welfare, and inviting them to your home for fellowship.

What about other church members? We Adventists can sometimes be too cloistered even within a moderately sized church such as Burnt Mills. Jesus instructed us to not be so interested in our own social group when He said, "When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." Luke 14:12-14.

I want to encourage you as Christians and Seventh-day Adventists to be hospitable. Let us take advantage of our opportunities for doing good. You may not have much to share, but even Jesus did not provide Olive Garden cuisine to the five thousand. The widow made just two cakes for Elijah, and then expected to starve, but God provided for her needs in an unexpected way. Let us put our trust in Him, move forward in faith, showing hospitality to those who most need it.

Vegetarian Cooking Class

Did you miss it? What? Burnt Mills' first Raw Food Vegetarian Cuisine with Barbara Stratford. I could not believe how delicious the raw apple pie was! Surely you enjoyed this treat if you attended the class.

Then Barbara demonstrated how to use a food processor and make nut pate (a really healthy and tasty sandwich spread). Both recipes are easy to make and once done, there is no cooking (or burning); just refrigerate and enjoy at meal time. Now, if you missed this wonderful class, we are inviting Barbara back for another class. Meanwhile, look

for apple pie at our next fellowship dinner. You will see how delicious it is.

If you want a copy of these recipes, visit the church office.

by Susan DiBiase

E-SWORD

In this era of high technology, more and more people are using the computer to study the Bible. The software packages currently available for Bible study are easy to use, have comprehensive features, and some can be downloaded free from the Internet. In addition to basic functions such as verse look-up and the capability to perform concordance searches quickly and easily, many Bible software packages have the ability to display multiple versions of the Bible at the same time, thereby enabling users to read and compare different translations.

e-Sword (not to be confused with Sword, another Bible software program) is one of the easiest Bible software applications to use. It has a simple screen layout which provides easy access to all features. Searching is easy and very fast and minimal training is required. This software was developed by Rick Meyers and began back in January 2000. The one drawback is that it is only available for Microsoft Windows. The most recent version for Windows is 7.7.7. For pocket PCs, the most recent version is 2.5.2.

e-Sword supports over twenty English translations of the Bible, as well as Greek, Hebrew, and many foreign translations. There are also a large variety of Bible commentaries from many different theological perspectives. A number of Bible dictionaries are also available. Various sets of Bible maps and many books by various Christian authors can be downloaded.

In Mark 16:15, Christ commissioned his disciples to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." With software like e-Sword, searching the scriptures is more exciting than ever. Reference tools such as lexicons, Bible dictionaries, commentaries and various cross-referencing tools are helpful in providing in-depth information on particular words, topics and books of the Bible.

Isn't it amazing how God has used men and women {some of us call them geeks} who devoted countless years creating computer programs that are now available for our benefit? Because e-Sword is available for free, it is now being used in practically every corner of the globe. We are truly in the toes of time!

Find e-Sword on the web at www.e-sword.net.

by Shirley Jarvis

Laborers Together with God

"We are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, ... of what sort it is."

Let us study these words carefully and prayerfully. In order to be understood, the Bible requires much thought. When we are preparing to go to a new country, and have received from our friends letters of instruction, how carefully we study those letters! We are strangers and pilgrims on this earth, journeying to a better country, even a heavenly, and to us have been given letters of instruction. Again and again we are enjoined to study these directions carefully, so that we shall make no mistake. God is faithful. If we are willing to be taught, He will do His part in teaching us. Let us not neglect our part. We are to labor together with God, working out our own salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that it is God who works in us to will and to do of His good pleasure. If we are faithful in doing our part, in co-operating with Him, God will work through us the good pleasure of His will. But God cannot work through us if we make no effort. If we gain eternal life, we must work, and work earnestly. If we lack in spiritual strength, we may know that we have failed of doing our part. Just as soon as the plan of salvation was de-

vised, Satan began to work; and if we hope to stand against him, we, too, must work. We must follow the example Christ has left us, submitting to Him in everything. Our will must be in harmony with His will.

"Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Are we placing the right kind of material upon the right foundation? If we lay upon the foundation wood, hay, stubble, sad indeed will be the result! Will that which we are bringing to the foundation endure the fire of the great day of God? Are we using our talents in the Master's service? Are we kind and courteous to all around us? Do we cherish in our hearts, and reveal in our lives, the principles of the truth?

The characters we form here will decide our eternal destiny. What kind of material are we using in our character building? We must guard well every point, seeking to gain that purity which will make our lives harmonize with the saving truth we profess to believe. Our part is to put away sin, to seek with determination for perfection of character. As we thus work, God co-operates with us, fitting us for a place in His kingdom. {RH, June 11, 1901 par. 4}

If we constantly receive grace from God, we shall be vessels unto honor, sanctified and meet for the Master's use. Daily receiving blessings, we shall daily impart blessings to those around us. But in order to be successful in this work, we must deny self. We cannot at the same time please self and serve Christ. We are not to follow our own inclinations, but look to Jesus, waiting to receive orders from our Captain.

Our one desire should be to do God's will in a way that He will approve. All our blessings come from Him, and He desires us in return to give Him our glad and willing service. Are we doing this? Are we receiving and imparting His grace? Are we standing under His banner as faithful sentinels? Are we learning precious lessons, that we may teach others? Let us not rob God. All things come from Him, and He expects us to return Him of His own.

Our money belongs to God, and He calls upon us to acknowledge this by paying a faithful tithe and giving willing offerings. The children of Israel were taught that their possessions came from God, and that by the paying of tithe and freewill offerings they were to acknowledge this. Thus we, too, may acknowledge whence our blessings flow. By giving of our means to save those for whom Christ died, we may show our appreciation of His goodness.

Is it possible that we are robbing God? If so, His blessing cannot rest upon us. This may be the reason why there is not more of the power of God with us. Let each one examine himself, and see whether he is obeying the directions God has given. Remove from your lives everything which separates you from God. Serve Him to the very best of your ability. Show your faith by your works. Cling with living faith to Jesus. Come up to the help of the Lord. Labor earnestly for the Saviour. Then the rich blessing of God will be your portion.

The doing of God's will is essential if we would have an increased knowledge of Him. Let us not be deceived by the oft-repeated assertion, "All you have to do is to believe." Faith and works are two oars which we must use equally if we press our way up the stream against the current of unbelief. "Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." The Christian is a man of thought and practice. His faith fixes its roots firmly in Christ. By faith and good works he keeps his spirituality strong and healthy, and his spiritual strength increases as he strives to work the works of God.

There is a crown of eternal life to win, a heaven of bliss to gain. The way is rough, and there is much climbing to do. But those who endure the toil, urging their way through all obstacles, will receive the overcomer's reward.

Christ has a right to our entire obedience. "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." "Herein

is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

When we claim to accept Christ as our Saviour, and yet continue to cherish sinful practices, we misrepresent Him and put Him to open shame. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

No one should deceive himself by thinking that his defects are not very grievous. If he does not guard against these defects, they will be his ruin, and will be reproduced in those with whom he associates. Those who do not think that God requires them to watch and pray unceasingly, striving against every imperfection, are deluded by the enemy. Until they change their attitude, they cannot grow in grace. We all need to pray earnestly for determination to overcome every defect of character. Pray that, "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; . . . ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power."

How many there are who retain wrong habits because they think they cannot overcome them. They do not make determined efforts to overcome. They cherish their sins as if they were precious jewels. If they are reproved, they murmur against the one who is watching for their souls as he that must give an account. Some, when reproved, act disrespectfully toward the one who, in the fear of God, showed them that they were misrepresenting their Saviour. They need to learn the meaning of true conversion. Paul

writes, "If so be that ye have heard Him, and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness ... all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil-speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Let us not be impatient and angry when our friends show us our mistakes and dangers. Some have followed their own way so long that they do not realize that they have serious defects of character, which influence others to their hurt. Let these remember that they are sowing seeds of imperfection, and that for this God will bring them into judgment.

We are enjoined to be "blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation." If your influence leads others astray, something is wrong. You are not obeying God's directions. Take advice. Do not dispute with the one who labors for your good. Put yourself under discipline. Remember that if you cannot see that you are guilty, you are in danger. Self-indulgence has blinded your eyes. Put forth an effort proportionate to the value of the object of which you are in pursuit. Remember that you are seeking for eternal life. It will not pay to be indolent and slothful on the very borders of the eternal world. Put to the stretch every spiritual sinew and muscle. Infinite resources have been provided for you. Then do not fail of being complete in Christ. God's work will triumph. The question we should each ask ourselves is. Shall I triumph with it?

by Ellen G. White

Review and Herald, June 11, 1901.

CHIP Principles

Dr. Hans Diehl presented a number of studies demonstrating that the affluent lifestyle of Americans can be fatal. He

explained how a healthy diet of natural foods and proper lifestyle changes can reverse this dangerous trend.

Cardiovascular disease and cancer were shown to be relatively new diseases, occurring primarily in the last two centuries. Many ancient diets such as the Roman, South Asian, Aztec, and Incan were based mainly on grains, and showed no cardiovascular diseases or cancers. Only the kings seemed to have problems. (See Proverbs 23:1-3) And today the Inuit and Eskimos have the highest rates of cardiovascular disease and cancer because of their high fat intake. Indonesians typically have no atherosclerosis until they begin eating a different diet, such as when working on the Dutch ships in the region.

Dr. Diehl explained that the excesses of the typical American diet, with too much fat, salt, meat, and sugar, contributes to various health problems. This trend can be reversed by eating a more natural diet of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. These provide the needed fiber that helps prevent constipation and promote good colon health.

All who attended the CHIP program were truly blessed.

by Timothy Pawlik

Vegetarian Cooking Class with Chef Sualua Tupolo

An exciting cooking class is coming up at the Capitol Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sunday, July 30, 2006, 2 p.m.-6 p.m. Are you looking for ways to spice up your meals? If so, please plan to attend this cooking class presented by Chef Sualua Tupolo, a certified vegetarian/vegan chef who is currently Executive Chef/Director of Culinary Arts and Food Service at Atlantic Union College. Dinner will be served. The nonrefundable donation is only \$30. Registration deadline is July 26. Please email RGC1506@yahoo.com or (703) 207-6172. The Capitol Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church is located at 914 Massachusetts Ave. NE; Washington, DC 20002. Ph. 202-543-1344.

Doug Batchelor to be seen on the National Geographic Channel's *Secrets of Revelation* on July 16, 2006

Amazing Facts website states: "We're reminding all our friends to tune to National Geographic Television to watch the premiere of *Secrets of Revelation* this weekend on Sunday, July 16. (See below for details regarding broadcast times.) This TV documentary will feature Bible prophecy insights from Pastor Doug Batchelor, along with a broad array of religious leaders."

The National Geographic Channel website says: "It is the ultimate tale of good triumphing over evil. The four horsemen of the Apocalypse and the beast numbered "666" unleash war and disease in proportions never seen before, while hail, fire and blood rain down upon the earth, followed by the second coming of Jesus Christ. For millions of believers, John's Revelation, the final book of the New Testament, is a precise blueprint of our future. But is there more to the Book of Revelation than prophecy?"

Sunday, July 16 (Premiere) -- 9 PM & Midnight

Saturday, July 22 -- 9 PM & Midnight

Sunday, July 23 -- 3 PM

Monday, July 24 -- 1pm

Sunday, July 30 -- 12 Noon

You may also want to view **Doomsday: Book of Revelation** (Note: this program may not include Doug Batchelor) at the following times:

Monday, July 17 -- 8 PM & 11PM

Saturday, July 22 -- 8 PM & 11PM

Monday, July 24 -- 12 Noon & 4pm

Sunday, July 30 - 11 am

Monday, Aug. 7 -- 6pm

The **National Geographic Channel** is:

Channel 109 on Comcast

Channel 91 on Verizon